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ARAB TIMES

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NO-7198 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1988 RAJAB 28, 1408 AH 18 PAGES 150 FTLS

Avalanches kill 100 in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, March 15. (Reuters). Avalanches, landslides and bad weather killed at least 76 people and closed a vital road link in the strategic north Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, a state official said today.

State Revenue Minister Pyarelal Handoo told reporters here the 300-km (185-mile) long Srinagar-Jammu road, linking the state's summer and winter capitals, was closed by heavy snow and landslides, stranding at least 5,000 travellers in Jammu.

Handoo said at least 49 people were killed in avalanches and landslides in two remote Himalayan villages in the Ladakh region in the past two days.

He said 12 others were killed last Friday to a south-eastern Kashmir village and three the day before in a north-eastern village. Two other people, froze to death along the closed Srinagar-Jammu road.

The official Pakistani news agency AFP reported yesterday that at least 24 people were killed in an avalanche that swept through a village in the Pakistani-controlled portion of the state.

Robber eats his gun

MONTPELLIER, France, March 15. (Reuters). A man tried to rob a cafe here but lost his nerve and ate his gun — it was made of nougat.

Customers who saw Sunday's attempted holdup said the man appeared to be drunk.

Four released

DHAKA, March 15. (AP). Four prominent opposition leaders, arrested last month during anti-government protests have been released, officials said today.

Officials at the Home Ministry, said Sajida Chowdhury and Abdul Mannan of the Awami League Party and Col. Akbar Hossain and Ali Ahmed of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party were released yesterday.

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ایران پر عراق کے چھ بیڑاں ملے
○ بھارت میں ملک گیر ہڑتال
○ سرافراہی
○ چینو مذاکرات ابھی جاری ہیں
○ شکت یار کو افغان مجاہدین نے غیار سہرا بنالیا
○ پاکستان میں برقی قاتل توڑے
○ سے ۳۳ سرفراہی
○ ادبیات ○ یوسفیات

WEATHER

FAIR weather with light to moderate northwesterly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 11.30 am, 10.30 pm
Low water: 5.00 am, 5.00 pm
Sunrise: 5.57 am
Sunset: 5.57 pm
Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 23°C 73°F
Ahmad: 22°C 72°F
Falkland: 22°C 72°F
Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 24°C 75°F
Ahmad: 23°C 73°F
Falkland: 23°C 73°F
Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 9°C 48°F
Ahmad: 13°C 55°F
Falkland: 13°C 55°F
Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 60 per cent
Ahmad: 56 per cent
Falkland: 72 per cent
Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 65 per cent
Ahmad: 69 per cent
Falkland: 75 per cent

Baghdad fires six missiles at Tehran

War of the cities rages in full fury

BAGHDAD, March 15. (Agencies). Iraq and Iran blasted each other's population centres today with missiles, air raids and artillery for the third straight day, apparently seeking to terrorise each other into submission in a new "war of the cities."

Communications from both sides, reported scores of civilians killed or wounded in today's attacks.

Iraq, which has long held the technological edge in the deadly duel, said it fired six long-range missiles today into Tehran, the Iranian capital.

"Let the Iranian rulers know that we are going to turn all Iranian cities into hell," an Iraqi military spokesman said after Iraq fired the missiles today.

office said Tehran was determined to fight until final victory but was willing to halt attacks on population centres if Baghdad did the same.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larjani said in Ankara that Iran would welcome a fresh Turkish initiative to end the war of the cities, now in its third week after a short-lived unofficial truce last weekend. That truce was mediated by Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Western diplomats in the region said Gulf Arab foreign ministers meeting in Saudi Arabia today could take a tougher line against Iran because of the war of the cities.

The Iraqi spokesman said air strikes were launched on 11 other towns and cities, including Khomein, 250 kms (150 miles) southwest of Tehran and birthplace of Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

Iraq said its southern port of Basra had been under constant fire from Iranian artillery and rockets since the truce failed on Sunday. The official Iraqi News Agency said nine people were killed and 20 wounded today. Iranian Revolutionary Guards fired 11 rockets at Basra and the town of Nasheh.

Basra's governor, Ahwar Al Hadithi, said that more than 2,900 shells and nearly 200 rockets have hit the city since Feb 28.

(Continued on Page 4)



Iranian rescue workers searching for survivors in the rubble after an Iraqi missile attack. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bombed

He also said Iraqi jets bombed 11 other Iranian cities and towns, although Tehran Radio, put the number at eight.

The Tehran Radio said 71 people were killed when Iraqi jets bombed nine cities in western Iran.

Baghdad offered Iran the stark choice of peace or destruction of its towns.

Iraq's ruling Baath Party daily Al Thawra said "Iranian rulers now stand at a crossroads leading to either a comprehensive destruction of their country and towns or accepting the international will of peace."

The Iranian war information

Opposition interrupts UK budget session

Lawson announces big income tax cuts

LONDON, March 15. (Reuters). Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson announced big income tax cuts in his annual budget today and set off uproar in Britain's Parliament as rowdy opposition legislators forced two suspensions of the House of Commons.

Lawson turned to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and said: "This is appalling," as he sat down when the sitting was suspended for 10 minutes after sustained chanting by Labour Party members.

Political sources said the scenes were unprecedented in recent memory during a budget presentation, one of the main events of the parliamentary year.

Labour members yelled "shame" in chorus after Lawson said he would cut the top tax rate from 60 per cent to 40 per cent, forcing the Chancellor to sit down while order was restored.

Earlier, the sitting was suspended for 15 minutes while the house voted to expel Scottish National Party (SNP) legislator Alex Salmond who interrupted proceedings when Lawson said he was cutting the basic tax rate down two per cent to 25 per cent.

The tax cuts, in a budget

deliberately constructed to reform the tax system, gave Britain its lowest basic rate since 1938.

Opposition legislators mounted their protests because Lawson failed to announce additional help for the ailing National Health Service (NHS), whose administrators claim that it urgently needs an infusion of government money.

Salmond leapt to his feet near the end of Lawson's speech and yelled: "There's nothing to it for the NHS — it's obscene."

When he refused to leave the chamber after being ordered to go by the presiding deputy speaker, Lawson was forced to stop speaking altogether while members voted by 354 to 19 to approve Salmond's expulsion.

Lawson's speech and the interruptions were broadcast live by radio.

The Chancellor had begun outlining his sixth annual budget by reminding Parliament that it would be the last not to be seen live on television — which some legislators hope will curb rowdy scenes.

Proceedings in the House of Commons will be televised from

(Continued on Page 12)

Prospects for US plan look uncertain

Shultz fails to persuade Shamir

WASHINGTON, March 15. (Reuters). Secretary of State George Shultz said today he had failed to persuade Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to soften his opposition to the Reagan administration's new Middle East peace plan.

Speaking at the State Department after a meeting with Shamir, Shultz told reporters: "We have discussed all the various elements and we haven't found a way to bridge the differences."

Shultz tried to persuade Shamir of the merits of the new US peace plan after the rightist prime minister attacked one of its basic elements: an exchange of some Israeli-occupied Palestinian land in return for a permanent settlement.

"Now we are told that the only thing needed to achieve a true and lasting peace is for us to declare our readiness to give up territories in Judea, Samaria and Gaza," Shamir said, using the Biblical names for the occupied territories.

"I am astounded at some people's short memories. Did we have peace when we did not have these territories? Don't they remember that the two most dangerous attempts to destroy us —

in 1948 and in 1967 — were made when we did not control any of these territories?" Shamir said in a speech yesterday.

The United States launched its new initiative after unrest broke out in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in early December. More than 90 Palestinians have died in the violence, the worst since Israel seized the territories from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

The administration's plan, which US officials say cannot be altered to suit Shamir, involves an international meeting next month to pave the way for two sets of talks. One would deal with interim Palestinian self-rule in the territories and the other would aim at a permanent Arab-Israeli settlement.

The prospects for the US plan have looked uncertain because of Shamir's attitude, because his coalition government in Israel is split on the proposal, and because Arab countries have failed to come up with a united response.

However, a senior US official closely involved in the administration's peace efforts said yesterday no country had formally rejected the new proposals.

GCC ministers in talks on Gulf war

BAHRAIN, March 15. (Agencies). Foreign Ministers from Gulf Arab states began talks in Saudi Arabia today aimed at ending the Gulf conflict as the war of the cities between Iran and Iraq flared with renewed ferocity.

A spokesman for the six-nation GCC said the group had begun its scheduled two day meeting, called amid speculation some members could toughen their stance against Iran.

Western diplomats said some moderate states now appeared willing to abandon a proposed dialogue with Iran, privately blaming Tehran for prolonging the 7-1/2-year-old war by refusing to accept last July's UN Security Council ceasefire order.

The chairman of the meeting, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said in an opening speech the meeting coincides with "especially important" international and Arab developments.

He added that the gathering will follow up on joint Arab action which best manifested itself in the last GCC summit meeting in Saudi Arabia in December last year.

He recalled that the summit coincided with the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and a serious escalation of the Iran-Iraq war.

Prince Saud regretted the "deplorable" developments of the Gulf war, saying the "serious escalation" was threatening the security of the GCC countries as well as international navigation in the Gulf.

He added that Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, in his capacity of current chairman of the GCC, had contacted the Security Council members to outline the GCC stand on the Gulf.

Prince Faisal said the outcome of the talks with the Security Council members would be examined during the current GCC ministerial meeting.

Kuwait's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Saud Mohammad Al Osaibi is leading the Kuwaiti delegation at the GCC meeting.

On Monday, at least 25,000 people were arrested in the southern state of Tamil Nadu and 500 others in Orissa in the east in what police said was a move to pre-empt violence during the strike.

In New Delhi, police said opposition workers attempted to close shops and block traffic but were dispersed.

In Parliament, proceedings

Deploable

He added that the gathering will follow up on joint Arab action which best manifested itself in the last GCC summit meeting in Saudi Arabia in December last year.

He recalled that the summit coincided with the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and a serious escalation of the Iran-Iraq war.

Appeared

The strike shut down offices and businesses in only six Indian states, but failed to achieve widespread support in most of the country.

The stoppage called by eight left and centre parties was predictably successful in opposition-dominated states mostly in the south and east but met with only partial success elsewhere in the country.

Posed

The strike was posed as a major confrontation with Rajiv by the usually fragmented opposition which has called for elections before the government's current term expires late next year.

Opposition parties also have been critical of Rajiv's handling of India's drought-stricken economy and of his policy in the northern state of Punjab where Sikh militants have been waging an armed campaign for an independent homeland.

About 25,000 people were arrested as a preventive measure in police swoops beginning yesterday, officials said.

But the opposition said at least 150,000 people were arrested. In a statement in New Delhi, the eight parties said the strike was complete in all major towns and industrial areas.

Officials said the main effects were felt in West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Assam — all opposition strongholds where the state governments actively supported the strike call.

Slogans

On Monday, at least 25,000 people were arrested in the southern state of Tamil Nadu and 500 others in Orissa in the east in what police said was a move to pre-empt violence during the strike.

In New Delhi, police said opposition workers attempted to close shops and block traffic but were dispersed.

In Parliament, proceedings

Anti-Rajiv strike fails to gain wide support

NEW DELHI, March 15. (Agencies). At least four people were killed and more than 90 injured today during an opposition-sponsored strike to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The strike shut down offices and businesses in only six Indian states, but failed to achieve widespread support in most of the country.

The stoppage called by eight left and centre parties was predictably successful in opposition-dominated states mostly in the south and east but met with only partial success elsewhere in the country.

The United News of India said at least three people were killed and several others injured in street clashes in eastern Bihar state. Violence was also reported from neighbouring West Bengal state, where at least 75 people were reported injured.

The news agency reported a youth was killed and seven other people injured when a flour mill operator opened fire at opposition party supporters attacking his mill near the coastal city of Ernakulam in Kerala state.

It also said 14 police were injured near the Pakistani border in Rajasthan state when police trying to remove roadblocks were pelted with stones.

Disrupted

The strike disrupted normal life in Bombay, India's business centre, and in Calcutta, the country's largest city. But it drew little response in the capital at New Delhi, where most businesses remained open.

Congress (I) party-ruled government had carried out a radio and television offensive against the "Bharat bandh" (all-India strike) and warned central government employees to ignore the strike call.

Strike organisers, quoted by PTI, said the stoppage was "an unqualified success" but a government spokesman in New Delhi said "response to the strike was mixed across the country."

The domestic carrier Indian Airlines said it maintained most schedules, the main exception being flights to and from Calcutta, a stronghold of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), a main organiser of the strike.

PTI, quoting official information, said about half of the country's rail freight shipments were

(Continued on Page 2)

Step taken to

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In Parliament, proceedings

negotiations will continue.

In a brief talk with reporters, Cordovez replied "of course" when asked whether the negotiations would go on.

March 15 had been named by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as the date by which a peace settlement would have to be signed if Moscow's estimated 115,000 troops were to start leaving by mid-May.

"In a negotiation for something to be a deadline, it has to be accepted as such by both sides and it has a certain meaning," Cordovez said. "I don't think the Soviet Union itself wanted to give it that meaning."

Unresolved

"We are discussing very serious, difficult issues but we continue to negotiate and look for solutions," he said. He did not elaborate but his remarks were seen to be referring to Pakistan's insistence on linking the proposed settlement to the formation of a broad-based transitional government that would oversee its implementation.

Cordovez said there were also some unresolved questions in the

(Continued on Page 2)

Soviets may delay Afghan pullout

MOSCOW, March 15. (Agencies). The Soviet Union said today its planned troop withdrawal from Afghanistan would be delayed until two months after a peace agreement was signed at talks in Geneva.

A government statement issued through the official Tass news agency said an original offer to begin the pull-out on May 15 was conditional on an accord being signed by March 15.

Talks

"It is perfectly clear that if the date of signing the accords is put off, the start of the pull-out of Soviet troops will be postponed as well," the statement said.

The Afghanistan peace talks reached the Soviet set target date today but UN mediator Diego Cordovez, citing "difficult issues" still to be resolved, said

Step taken to slap emergency on Punjab

NEW DELHI, March 15. (Agencies). Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling party today cleared a major hurdle toward imposing emergency rule in the north Indian state of Punjab where Sikh militants are fighting for an independent homeland.

Rajiv's Congress (I) Party pushed through a constitution amendment bill in the upper house of Parliament and secured a two-thirds majority needed for it.

Almost the entire opposition walked out when the bill was put to a vote. It empowers the government to abridge fundamental rights and suspend the writ on habeas corpus.

Punjab, where the state assembly has been dissolved, is being ruled directly by New Delhi and the government is using anti-terrorism laws to detain people without trial.

The bill would now be sent to the lower house where Rajiv's party has a four-fifths majority in the 543-seat house. It will become law when the lower house vote approvals and the President of India gives his assent.

Sri Lankan violence

COLOMBO, March 15. (Reuters). Ethnic violence in eastern Sri Lanka took 23 lives in the past two days, Indian and Sri Lankan military officials said today.

A spokeswoman for the Indian High Commission (Embassy) told reporters that unidentified civilians hacked to death three Tamils today after dragging them out of a bus at Tampalagam in Trincomalee district.

Strike paralyses occupied areas

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 15. (Agencies). Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinian protesters today and a general strike paralysed much of West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said.

Demonstrations erupted in several West Bank towns and refugee camps.

Crushed

In the village of Deir Jarir, about 20 miles (32 km) north of Jerusalem, Arafat Hweih, 22, from the nearby village of Ein Yabrud, was shot and killed during a clash with soldiers, the Palestine Press Service reported.

Hweih, who suffered a severe head wound, was pronounced dead at Mokassad Hospital in Arah east Jerusalem, hospital

officials said.

A doctor at Mokassad Hospital in Jerusalem said Hweih arrived dead with a crushed jaw. He said there was no gunshot wound and the cause of death was unclear. The doctor quoted Hweih's family as saying he was shot by Israeli troops.

In the village of Jaba, about 40 miles (64 km) north of Jerusalem, Alan Said Nusrallah, 17, was shot in the stomach during a morning protest, the Press Service said. The teenager was dead on arrival at St Luke's Hospital in Nablus, officials there said.

In the village of Qalqilya, two women were lightly wounded by rubber bullets during a demonstration, officials at Qalqilya hospital said. The town, about 10

miles (16 km) northeast of Tel Aviv, was placed under curfew following the violence, state-run Israel Radio reported.

At least 93 Palestinians have died and hundreds have been wounded since the anti-Israel riots began Dec 9.

Barred

Residents of the occupied West Bank town of Qalqilya said violent clashes with the Army took place last night and today. Journalists were barred from entering the town, declared a "closed military area."

Palestinian sources said at least five people were wounded by Israeli gunfire and 10 others suffered from tear gas inhalation in clashes in Qalqilya. One

source put the casualty figure as high as 30.

Staff at Qalqilya's small hospital said three of the injured, a mother and two sons, were taken to an Israeli hospital. They said the two sons, aged 18 and 20, were in "very serious" condition.

Another Palestinian died in an explosion in Rafah in the Gaza Strip last night, Palestinian sources said. They said he may have been preparing a bomb which exploded prematurely.

A general strike, declared by the secret unified national leadership of the uprising was widely observed throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Shops that had opened for three hours each day during the uprising remained closed all day. Public transport was on strike.

ARAB TIMES
Grand Bingo
Miss Marina Susan Mascarenhas has won the First Full House prize. She will receive KD100. Game No. 63 continues for the Second and Third Full House prizes.

INTERNATIONAL

Carlucci arrives in Bern

Superpower defence ministers to meet for the first time

BERN, Switzerland, March 15, (UPI): US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, saying he will demand an apology from the Soviets for the 1985 killing of an American military officer in East Germany, arrived today in Switzerland for a historic first meeting with his Soviet counterpart.

Carlucci said aboard his plane while en route to Bern that he would seek an apology from Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov for the 1985 killing of an American military officer in East Germany.

Nicholson was shot to death by a Soviet sentry March 24, 1985. He was promoted one rank to lieutenant colonel after his death.

Asked if he would seek such an apology from Yazov during their three days of meetings that begin today and end on Thursday, Carlucci replied, "yes."

In an interview with the official Soviet news agency Tass published in the daily Pravda today, Yazov did not mention the Nicholson killing but said the talks in Bern would deal with

ways to prevent future "incidents" between the militaries of the two superpowers.

"We are prepared to discuss issues of prevention incidents between the armed forces of the United States and the USSR," he said.

The encounter in Bern will be the first time a US Defence Secretary and a Soviet Defence Minister have had an official meeting.

Before the historic meeting between the two defence officials, Carlucci and his wife, Marcia, went sightseeing in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, the birthplace of the US Defence Secretary's maternal great-grandmother.

Carlucci and Yazov will meet officially for the first time at a dinner tonight hosted by the Swiss government.

The Defence Secretary also disclosed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had acknowledged the Soviet advantage in tanks and artillery to President Reagan at the Washington summit in December, and recommended, "let Carlucci and Yazov get together and discuss it."

Soviets may delay Afghan ...

(Continued from Page 1)

texts of the four agreements making up the peace package that has been negotiated for almost six years. But he noted that all sides had reaffirmed their determination "to conclude and sign."

"Give time to time," he cited a Spanish saying in Ecuador, his native country. "They are negotiating seriously."

"Talks are going on, going on," was the brief comment from Nikolay Kozirev, the special Soviet envoy who came to Geneva to follow the talks. He had been stopped by reporters when he emerged from a meeting with the UN mediator.

Pakistan and Afghanistan, at Cordovez' request, earlier cancelled plans to hold separate news conferences. The UN mediator has repeatedly made plain that discretion facilitates negotiations which are conducted indirectly because Pakistan refuses to recognise the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

The chief Pakistani representative, acting Foreign Minister Zain Noorani, told journalists in a separate brief talk that draft texts of the peace package could be completed "in a matter of days, given the goodwill and determination on all sides."

Leader

● Meanwhile Afghan guerrillas chose a Muslim fundamentalist opposed to UN-mediated peace talks as their leader today.

The seven-party guerrilla alliance said Gulbuddin Hekmatyar of the Hezb-i-Islami Party would be the new chairman for three months.

Hekmatyar said in Peshawar that he opposed the Geneva peace talks and would work to set up a rebel government inside Afghanistan.

Summer time

DAMASCUS, March 15, (Reuters): Syria today advanced its clocks by one hour to summer time, officials said.

Soviet leader acknowledges serious ethnic unrest

Gorbachev honours Tito

BELGRADE, March 15, (Reuters): Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev paid his respects today at the grave of the late Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito, once branded a traitor to communism by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

Gorbachev also admitted there is serious ethnic unrest in the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev, the first Kremlin leader to pay an official visit to Yugoslavia in 12 years, laid a wreath at Tito's tomb in the leafy Dedinje hills overlooking Belgrade and toured a museum dedicated to Tito's life and work.

Restore

Gorbachev has been cheered in spontaneous encounters with ordinary Yugoslavs who expressed support for his reform programme which he says may borrow some ideas from Yugoslavia's decentralised "self-management socialism."

US executes convicted murderer

STARKE, FLA., March 15, (Reuters): Convicted murderer Willie Jasper Darden died in Florida's electric chair at the state prison here this morning despite an international campaign to save his life.

Darden, 54, had been the subject of a campaign by Amnesty International, joined by prominent figures such as Nobel laureate Andrei Sakharov and Pope John Paul II, who contend he was the victim of racial prejudice.

Convicted of the Sept 1973, shooting death of a white Lakeland, Florida, businessman, Darden, a black man who steadfastly maintained his innocence, had been on Florida's death row longer than all but one man. He had survived six previous death warrants signed by the state's governors.

Reshuffle expected

BEIJING, March 15, (UPI): China will replace its ailing defence minister with a tough-minded general in a reshuffle of senior officials planned next month, but its foreign minister, also slated to step down, may stay on, Chinese sources said today.

"I hope he can do something for socialism to restore our faith in this creed, which has been seriously shaken," said Mirjana Vesselinovic, a retired teacher.

"Self-management and Gorbachev's perestroika look alike and they are well-conceived in theory, but if Gorbachev wants my advice, I would caution him to avoid our mistakes," she said.

Yugoslavia mapped out its alternative road to socialism three decades ago after being expelled in 1948 from the international communist movement under Stalin, who branded Tito a renegade and a traitor.

Gorbachev was expected later today to adopt a new joint declaration on Soviet-Yugoslav ties, confirming the mutual respect underlined in accord signed in the 1950s by Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev which mended relations.

Gorbachev planted a "tree of

peace" in a Belgrade Park today among trees bearing the names of some of the world's great statesmen and also some now-disgraced dictators.

Gorbachev, shovelled earth on to the gold cedar sapling in Friendship Park on the Sava River banks.

Gorbachev later went on to talks with Yugoslav Party leader Bosko Krunic in the party headquarters near the park.

Acknowledged

Gorbachev has acknowledged during his visit that there is serious ethnic unrest in the Soviet Union. At least 34 people died in recent clashes in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

"The fact is that there are questions of a cultural and technical character which have escaped our attention and problems have accumulated," he told reporters. He said Yugoslavia, like the

Soviet Union, was a country where many ethnic minorities had lived for centuries.

The bloodshed in Transcaucasia, the worst ethnic unrest in the Soviet Union in decades, has posed one of the most serious challenges to Gorbachev since he took office three years ago.

In Moscow, the deputy prosecutor-general of the Soviet Union has confirmed that pogroms took place in Sumgait, an Azerbaijani city.

"Large scale unrest took place in Sumgait, accompanied by pogroms, arson, and other atrocities," deputy prosecutor Alexander Katushev told the Azerbaijani newspaper Bakinsky Rabochy.

Armenians who fled the Sumgait area and came to Moscow have spoken of pogroms during the Feb 28 disorders, saying Armenians were hunted down and killed by Azerbaijanis.



Gorbachev combs his hair before entering the House of Federation in Belgrade for talks with Yugoslav leaders. (Reuters wirephoto)

Appeal to save the lives of blacks

S. Africa to hang 'Sharpeville Six'

JOHANNESBURG, March 15, (Agencies): A lawyer fighting to save six South African blacks from the gallows appealed to Western governments today to help persuade Pretoria to commute their sentences.

The six, aged between 22 and 30, were convicted last year of complicity in the 1984 mob killing of a black township councillor.

Western governments and the human rights organisation Amnesty International have appealed to Pretoria to grant clemency.

Visited

In its appeal to South African President P. W. Botha, the organisation said it was "shocked by the very high number of people being executed in South Africa." Last year more than 164 prisoners were hanged, the highest number of executions in South Africa in any year since 1910.

Lawyer Prakash Diar today visited the six for the first time since they were told their sentences would not be commuted.

He said: "There is no precedent for a reprieve at this late stage, but we must keep trying."

He said the "Sharpeville Six" — five men and a woman — had been informed by the authorities that their execution would go ahead on Friday at Pretoria central prison, where they have been on death row since last year.

"I will see them this morning to discuss possibilities and see if there is anything they need. We will probably apply for a stay of execution."

He said the "only real hope" seemed to be pressure from US President Reagan, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany.

"Rightly or wrongly, the families believe that if there is anyone out there that the South African government will listen to, it is these three," Diar said.

The six were convicted in connection with the murder of councillor Jacob Dlamini, who was hacked to death and hanged in Sharpeville in Sept 1984.

An appeals court judge said they did not participate in the murder, but were guilty because they shared a common purpose with the perpetrators.

"If there was ever a case for the state president to exercise his discretion and grant clemency, this is it," Diar said.

Egypt and Italy begin joint naval exercise

CAIRO, March 15, (AP): Italian and Egyptian warships today began a two-day joint exercise in the Mediterranean Sea off the port of Alexandria, Italian diplomatic sources said.

This is the first joint exercise between the two countries, which have maintained close friendly relations since the end of World War II.

Italy became the fourth country to hold joint military exercises with Egypt after the United States, Sudan and Jordan.

Four Italian warships, which arrived in Alexandria last week, participated in the exercise. They are the helicopter-carrying cruiser Vittorio Veneto, the destroyer Impavido, the frigate Sagittario and the submarine Marconi.

Refused

The Italian sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they believed two warships were participating on the Egyptian side.

The Italian warships left Alexandria for the exercise zone about 7 am local time (0500 GMT), the sources said.

Egypt's Defence Ministry spokesman refused to give any information about the exercise.

The Italian force commander, Admiral Alfeo Battelli, told a news conference in Alexandria on Saturday that the four Italian warships carried complements totalling 1,600.

"There is a very good spirit of collaboration between the two navies," one Italian diplomatic source in Cairo told the Associated Press today.



Jackson predicts victory in Illinois

CHICAGO, March 15, (Reuters): Illinois Republicans their choice of presidential candidates today with black civil rights leader and Democratic hopeful Jesse Jackson predicting his first victory in a northern industrial state.

In the Republican primary contest, Senate minority leader Robert Dole, trailing Vice-President George Bush in the polls, vowed to stay in the race whatever the outcome.

"Can't you feel that winning spirit? We will win in Illinois, Jackson said last night on the eve of a tight Democratic battle with home state Senator Paul Simon and Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis.

Support

A variety of polls show growing support in Illinois for Jackson and Dukakis, the Democrats national front runner.

In his 1984 campaign and again this year, Jackson won several southern contests in which his fellow blacks accounted for more than a third of the vote.

Jackson, second to Dukakis nationally, stands a good chance of winning the popular vote in Illinois but may fare less well in a separate contest for delegates to the Democratic convention as most of his strength is in Chicago's black wards.

Political experts say he lacks enough white support to win the nomination.

Simon also predicted a victory but said the contest could be the last of his campaign. "If I don't win here — that's it."

The main question in the Republican contest appeared to be the size of Bush's victory over his chief rival Dole.

Contest

Polls give Bush a better than two-to-one lead and he was talking like a man who already has his party's nomination. "I'll be a good President. I'll work hard. I will never apologise for the United States of America," he told cheering supporters.

But Dole insists he is staying in the contest. One of the reasons is a belief that pending indictments in the Iran-Contra scandal might damage the Vice-President.

"That's a factor," Dole said on US television. "There are going to be several indictments, I understand. They are going to raise this question again of Iran-Contra and certainly it's going to affect those who are in the administration."

Dole said Bush's credibility was at issue because the Vice-President had given up to nine different explanations of his role in the secret arms deals with Iran and the diversion of proceeds to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

Doubts

Opinion polls show most voters think Bush has not been fully candid about the scandal. But, at least among Republicans, those doubts have not hurt him politically.

Illinois voters will choose 173 delegates to the Democratic convention and 92 delegates to the Republican convention in a separate contest today.

Bush appears certain to win the nomination after winning 16 of 17 Republican contests on Super Tuesday. He has 776 of the 1,139 delegates necessary, according to ABC television. Dole has 233.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gas leak

BOMBAY, March 15, (Reuters): Ammonia gas leaking from a suburban Bombay chemical plant sent more than 100 people, mostly women and children, fleeing in panic today, police said.

They said about 60 people were treated in hospital after a leaking pipe at Bombay Carbon Dioxide Gas Corporation Ltd spewed plumes of gas into nearby slum colonies.

The police said initial inquiries showed no safety devices existed at the plant for contingencies.

Reconciliation talks

SUVA, Fiji, March 15, (AP): Interim Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said today he would visit Britain to try to heal the rift in the two countries' 114-year-old relationship caused by last year's bloodless military coup.

Mara said in a radio broadcast to the Pacific Island nation that former Governor-General Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, now President of Fiji, would accompany him to talk to "appropriate authorities" in Britain in the next few weeks.

Egyptian denial

CAIRO, March 15, (UPI): The government dismissed a claim today that the Israeli Embassy came under attack from a clandestine, nationalist group and said shots that rang on the embassy's doors last week were fired by mistake.

The second government denial in four days was issued in response to a claim by an anonymous telephone caller who said a previously unknown anti-Israel group fired shots at the embassy last Friday morning.

Pham Hung buried

BANGKOK, March 15, (AP): Vietnam buried Premier Pham Hung today after eulogising him as a dedicated revolutionary in a 60-year struggle for the communist cause.

Tens of thousands of mourners lined the 10-kilometre (six-mile) route of the carriage that bore his coffin past two rows of armed military honour guards, according to reports monitored in Bangkok.

Plane crash

KUALA LUMPUR, March 15, (Reuters): A Malaysian Air Force Skyhawk fighter bomber crashed into the jungle in the country's central state of Pahang yesterday but the pilot ejected safely, a Defence Ministry spokesman said today.

Anti-Rajiv strike fails to gain ...

(Continued from Page 1)

curtailed, primarily of primary commodities such as coal, steel and iron ore.

In the capital, few effects were felt. Transport ran near normal, most shops and markets were open and only a few industrial concerns, banks and businesses were closed down.

PTI said the strike call met a fair response in Bombay, India's commercial centre, where the country's main stock exchange closed for the day. Some industries and businesses also closed.

Only a scattered response was felt in the northern Hindi-speaking states, the Congress (I) Party's traditional vote bank.

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All members, observers must be allowed to attend UN General Assembly

Arabs support Kuwaiti stand

UNITED NATIONS, March 15. (Kuna). The Arab group has backed a Kuwaiti proposal calling for the participation of all General Assembly members and observers in the work of its plenary and various panels.

The proposal would be included in a resolution to be tabled when the General Assembly resumes its 42nd session, probably on Friday, to take up the US-ordered closing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's observer mission.

Opinion
The Kuwaiti proposal, which Ambassador Mohammad A. Abulhasan said won the unanimous support at Monday's Arab group meeting, does not mention by the name the PLO or any other group.

The purpose was to win wide support for the draft in the Assembly which on March 12 said the US move was a violation of the headquarters agreement and international law.

Only Israel voted against the resolution, while the United States did not participate in the vote.

"The General Assembly should reaffirm once again that all its meetings and those of its various committees take place in the presence of all its members, observers and invitees," Abulhasan said.

He said the Arab group's current chairman, Ahmed Ghezal, would inform a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Wednesday what the Arab group had decided with

regard to the reconvening of the session.

Abulhasan said the resolution would ask the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion. It would also include the Kuwaiti proposal adopted by the Arab group.

Condemn
Meanwhile Arab delegates want the General Assembly to be summoned back into session on Friday to condemn the US decision to close the Palestine Liberation Organisation's UN office, an Arab source said on Monday.

He said the session would probably continue into next Monday, the day the PLO observer mission is due to close under the terms of a 1987 US anti-terrorism act.

The assembly, which recessed last December, met briefly earlier this month to urge the United States not to go ahead with its plan, saying the move would violate a 1947 agreement establishing UN headquarters in New York.

Protest

The assembly also asked the World Court at the Hague to rule whether the United States is obliged to submit the dispute to an arbitration panel provided for under the 1947 accord.

After Washington confirmed last Friday it would proceed with the closure, most UN diplomats said it was a foregone conclusion the assembly would again be summoned to protest the US action.

Swedish company sold arms illegally to Saudi Arabia

STOCKHOLM, March 15. (Reuters). Sweden's state-owned arms firm FFV flouted an official embargo by selling anti-tank guns to Saudi Arabia in the late 1970s, a senior company official said.

His disclosure, in a newspaper interview, came three days after FFV admitted evading the embargo by selling the same weapon, the Carl Gustav anti-tank gun, to Israel between 1970 and 1973.

Under Swedish law, companies are forbidden to sell weapons to countries involved or likely to become involved in conflicts. A total Middle East arms embargo has been in force since 1956.

But a spate of revelations has shown the official policy on arms exports has been largely ignored for decades.

Courses

FFV ordnance marketing chief Leif Nimander told the Dagens Nyheter newspaper FFV sold 450 Carl Gustav guns to the Saudis in 1978. Swedish instructors were sent to run courses on how to use the weapon.

"I myself led an instruction

course for officers and technicians during four weeks in November and December 1980. In all, FFV had three instructors there," he said.

Nimander said the weapons were shipped via Britain to evade the Swedish embargo. The contract was worth around 65 million crowns (\$10.5 million). A further delivery of ammunition in the 1980s was worth an additional 50 million crowns (\$8.3 million).

"It is difficult to obtain a clear picture of what happened. These orders are hidden in big orders from Britain that were intended to go to several different countries," Nimander said.

Supporter

Neutral Sweden is an enthusiastic supporter of international disarmament efforts. As a country which has not fought a war since 1809, it considers itself a champion of world peace.

Last week, FFV said it had sold ammunition for the Carl Gustav to Australia which was fighting on the US side in the

Vietnam war. Company officials involved in the sales said they were carried out with the full knowledge of the government.

Earlier scandals surrounding the country's largest weapons manufacturer Bofors revealed large-scale illegal shipments to many Middle East and Third World nations on the blacklist.

Smuggling

Police have also uncovered an arms smuggling ring organised by Swedish businessmen which allegedly supplied Iraq with much of its ammunition and explosives needs in the early 1980s.

The FFV shipments to Israel went via a private Dutch company Artilleri Inrichtingen-Hembrug, according to the company's information chief Guy Engman.

Lars Engvall, a former engineer at FFV, told a Swedish newspaper: "A lot of guns were exported to the Netherlands and everybody, including the government, knew they didn't stay there. But long as we handled it nicely, we could export wherever we wanted."

Sports festival

DR Youssef Al Ebad, the first director of Physical Education in the Ahmadi Educational Area, said the Second Ahmadi Sports Festival is an example of the cooperation which exists between the Ahmadi governorate and the Kuwait Oil Company.

The festival, scheduled to be held on March 22, will be held at the Kuwait Oil Company Stadium and will involve 2,500 students from all educational levels, he said, adding that this will be the first time secondary school students have participated.

Dr Youssef said the sports festival enhances the physical education programme for students and provides parents a chance to see their children in sports activities.

Iraq-Iran war shatters peace of Kurdish mountains

SULAYMANIYAH, Iraq, March 15. (Reuters). Three-year-old Nasreen Hama Amin lay today in a hospital here today covered in shrapnel wounds, another victim of the bitter war of the cities between Iran and Iraq.

She was playing in the small courtyard of her home at Darbandikhan when a rocket smashed into the house, killing her mother, two sisters and two brothers and seriously injuring her father.

One sister, married only three days earlier, died with her new husband.

Dangerous
Darbandikhan, 50 km from Sulaymaniyah in northeastern Iraq, was one of several Kurdish towns in the area which came under intensive Iranian attack starting late on Sunday.

Reporters taken by bus to Darbandikhan heard the thud of Iranian shellfire several times during a three-hour visit. An accompanying officer said it was too dangerous to visit three other towns in the area still under attack.

The slopes of the snow-capped mountains of Kurdistan were splashed with red, white and violet flowers, but birds had been driven high into the sky by the blast of war.

The governor of Darbandikhan said one shell landed on the hospital in the town of 30,000 people, killing or wounding 13

Dr Sabika honoured



Kuwait University Rector Dr Abdul Mohsen Al Abdul Razzak (left), Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri and Dr Sabika Al Abdul Razzak pictured at the ceremony honouring Dr Sabika's contribution to the Graduate College.



Dr Sabika Al Abdul Razzak (centre) pictured with university officials at the ceremony held in her honour.

THE office of the Dean of the Graduate College at Kuwait University held a ceremony on Sunday to honour Dr Sabika Al Abdul Razzak who was the dean of the college from 1983 to 1987.

The Dean of the College Dr Ali Akbar, speaking on the occasion, paid tribute to the hard work and dedication displayed by Dr Al Abdul Razzak during her time at the college. In reviewing her many contributions and accomplishments, Dr Akbar said she was responsible for the expansion of the college and the specialised subjects offered.

The ceremony was attended by Kuwait's Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri, Public Health Minister Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak, the University Rector Dr Abdul Mohsen Al Abdul Razzak and a number of students and teachers.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Call for inviting Egypt to attend Arab summit

A KUWAITI daily Al Rai Al Aam in its editorial yesterday, reiterated its call for inviting Egypt to attend the proposed Arab summit.

Earlier this month, Algerian President Chadli Ben Jedid called for holding an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss means of supporting the Palestinian popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Arab summit should be based on the goals of the uprising, and should take into consideration practical measures to bring an end to the Zionist occupation, the daily added.

The paper advocated holding the conference in one of the Gulf Cooperation Council states or other Arab countries who have diplomatic relations with Egypt instead of Algeria.

New US initiative

ANOTHER Kuwaiti newspaper charged the New American initiative on a Mideast settlement of attempting "to bury the Palestine cause and people."

Al Anba said that "the initiative, similar to its predecessors, does not deserve all this fuss and deliberations about it or waste of time when rather we should be preoccupied with the 99-day old heroic Palestinian uprising."

The paper called for activating Arab anger over the Zionist atrocities against the revolting Palestinian people and creating "confrontational circumstances" on all Arab fronts as the sole honourable endeavour at this time.

The daily accused Arab decision-makers of merely seeking US satisfaction, believing it is the only means of remaining in power, and of lacking cultural and historical understanding.

Smoking and cancer correlated

THE Chairman of Kuwait's Health Department Dr Hussein Al Mumin said there is a close correlation between smoking and several types of cancer. In a seminar held at a secondary school in Salmiya, Dr Al Mumin said the most common cancer caused by smoking affected the lungs, liver and kidneys.

He added that cancer due to smoking was not only common among men but among women as well. In some Western societies, he said, female smokers outnumber male smokers and consequently the incidence of lung cancer among women has increased.

In Kuwait lung cancer is the most common form of cancer among men and the second most common among women, with breast cancer being first.

Dr Al Mumin said there are about two million cases of cancer reported in the world yearly and the number of smokers increases by two million every year.

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Kuwait's support for hospitals in occupied Palestine praised

DAMASCUS, March 15. (Kuna). Director of the Islamic Al Makased Hospital in occupied Jerusalem, Dr Kustum Al Nimeri has hailed Kuwait's support for hospitals and medical centres in occupied Palestine.

Al Nimeri, in an interview with Al Hadaf magazine the month-piece of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said that Kuwait is the only Arab country that supports us regularly.

The director spoke of the new poisonous gases used by the Israeli occupation troops against the Palestinian demonstrators in the past ten days.

Bullets

He said that the new gases had destructive effects particularly on the respiratory system and said that a number of these gas canisters were made in the US and others in Austria and that "we still do not know its exact components."

Dr Nimeri further said that

Israeli soldiers were now using new high-velocity bullets that are more dangerous than the internationally-banned dum-dum bullets. He noted that on many occasions "we have resorted to amputations because the new bullet after exploding inside the body smashes bones and badly affects tissues and arteries."

He called on all international political and medical bodies to quickly intervene with the Israeli authorities to prevent usage of the banned gases and the high-velocity bullets and appealed to the American and Austrian governments to declare "components of the gases" chemicals to enable us find a cure."

The director called on the World Health Organisation to dispatch experts and test the samples of that weapon and pressure the Israeli government to allow a check of the new gas bombs.

He urged Arab health ministries and various charitable organisations to expedite finan-

cial donations and noted that most urgent need at present is establishing rehabilitation centres for those disabled as a result of Israeli savagery.

Charity bazaar

KUWAIT'S Najat Charity Society, in cooperation with Shuwaikh Health Area, opened a charity bazaar at the Faculty of Commercial Studies recently. The proceeds from the bazaar will go to the Patients Support Fund.

The Secretary of the Fund Dr Sabak Al Mansour said students of the faculty had been very generous in contributing to the fund, which aims at supporting patients and disabled persons from all nationalities who are unable to work.

He added that Islam called on Muslims to support the sick by giving alms and donations.

Arab delegation confers with Howe

LONDON, March 15. (Kuna). A high-level Arab League delegation was today conferring here with Britain's Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on the Arab-Israeli dispute, in the light of the escalating uprising in the occupied territories.

The delegation was, this afternoon meeting Howe over a working lunch. It includes Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi and Dr Walid Al Khalidi, who represents the PLO.

The team arrived here yesterday as part of a drive by the Arab League to impress on the five permanent members of the Security Council the need for an early solution to the Palestinian problem.

Diplomatic sources said that the ministers were seeking British support for securing the

legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

They were also pressing Britain to put pressure on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

In addition, the team was highlighting the importance of including the PLO in any international peace conference on the Middle East, the sources said.

The new American peace proposals on the Arab-Israeli dispute and the coordinated Arab position in that respect were expected to be dealt with during the meeting, they pointed out.

Meanwhile, the ministers were calling on Britain to force Israel to stop its brutal and harsh crackdown on the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

The delegation is due to leave London later today for Paris for similar talks with the French government.

New service office established

THE Justice Ministry has established a new citizens service office at the enforcement department to facilitate matters for citizens.

The office will receive enquiries and suggestions on the easiest way to complete services and transactions.

The office distributed to all concerned lawyers and petitioners a booklet that gave all the steps to be followed to complete

transactions dealing with savings, seizures and travel bans.

The director of the enforcement department, Judge Salem Awad Al Khadair, said the new office will facilitate transactions and services for all petitioners.

The head of the office, Nabes Ashwi Al Enizi, said the new office welcomed suggestions, enquiries and complaints.

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Call for establishment of a centre to detect genetic disorders

Majority of children in Kuwait anaemic

By Fathima Ahmed

CHILDREN in Kuwait may look healthy, but a majority are anaemic and obese, according to doctors attending a seminar on paediatrics at the Sabah Hospital.

A UK-based paediatrician has in the meantime, called for setting up of a specialised centre in Kuwait to detect "inborn errors", or genetic disorders, in infancy.

"There seems to be a common fallacy here (Kuwait) that fat is beautiful. Fat is unhealthy and could lead to disease," said a consultant paediatrician from the UK, Dr P. Swift.

The estimated incidence of obesity in children is 37 per cent in one-year olds and seven per cent in children aged between seven and 11. Obesity affects girls more than boys. There is an increased risk of obesity in adulthood. Between five and seven per cent remain obese by the age of 20; 31 per cent of the men and 27 per cent of the women are overweight by their mid-twenties. The risk of disease is then higher.

Campaign

Seminar organiser Dr A. R. Ali feels "there is an urgent need to launch a media campaign to prevent anaemia and obesity in children."

A group of five doctors and dietitians from the UK and a large number of local doctors are attending the seminar.

The doctors blame "improper diets and feeding habits" for the high incidence of obesity in children. This, they believe, is due to misconceptions about diet and



Dr P. Swift



Dr A.R. Ali

health links.

Ali said: "A rich diet may not be a healthy diet. People must be taught proper eating habits."

Anaemia among children is widespread throughout the world and is largely blamed on unhealthy diets.

"Children are fed a lot of junk food, high in calories but low in vitamins and nutrients," said Dr Swift. Junk food includes hamburgers, sweets, crisps and other such items.

Feeding

They recommend a drastic change in feeding habits, encouraging children to eat nutritious food — fruit and vegetable — and avoid sweets and fatty food.

Doctors emphasised the "long-term benefits of good eating habits." And this should start in infancy, they said.

A nutritionally rich diet in childhood can prevent such diseases as diabetes, highly prevalent among adults in Kuwait, obesity, hypertension

and other common disorders.

They have also recommended "regular monitoring of blood sugar levels" in children and adults. They suggested iron supplements for infants — to overcome iron deficiency, seen commonly among children in Kuwait.

"Breast feeding is still the best," emphasises Swift.

Essential

Fatty components of breast milk are essential for the growth of healthy adults, he said. Apart from health, breast-feeding also encourages a bond between mother and the child.

Another important aspect to paediatric management of genetic errors, known as "inborn metabolic disorders," was discussed in detail by Dr Imdadali Sardarwalla, director of the Willink Biochemical Genetics Unit of the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, UK.

Sardarwalla has discussed the setting up of a specialised centre to detect metabolic errors with

Kuwait officials.

Genetic disorders are likely to occur among communities which encourage intermarriage. Marriage between cousins and first cousins is very common in Kuwait.

Retardation

"Hospitals (in Kuwait) don't have facilities to detect genetic disorders," he said.

If a genetic abnormality is detected within the first two weeks of birth the chances are high of preventing brain damage, and subsequent mental retardation.

Certain chemicals accumulate in the body which could cause brain damage. If the condition is known, doctors can prescribe a "special diet" to control accumulation of colic amino acid to prevent brain damage. Once a disorder is detected, the child has to be on the diet for up to 10 years to prevent irreversible damage.

Irreversible damage could occur if it is diagnosed two or three months after birth," he warned. About 80 per cent of all genetic disorders cause brain damage, and, subsequently, progressive mental retardation in children at high risk.

Common

In Kuwait, a "fair number" of genetic disorders occur frequently, though doctors are yet to "discover the extent of the problem."

In the UK, genetic disorders are likely to occur in one in 10,000 babies.

The condition is more common among ethnic groups encouraging intermarriages, which Dr Sardarwalla stresses, must be discouraged.

Genetic disease has a fairly common pattern, peculiar to a particular community. But doctors are reluctant to "generalise patterns" and insist on "prevention through early diagnosis."

Health officials, it seems, are aware of the shortage of trained lab technicians and geneticists and were receptive to a suggestion to encourage training.

The link between diet and disease was stressed by doctors who wanted the establishment of a "close link between the doctor and dietitian in hospitals."

"A doctor working on his own is no good. He must be assisted by other health workers," insisted Dr Ali.

History

The visiting doctors have suggested "closer cooperation" between health clinics and hospitals and a feedback of patient history. They believe this is essential to improve medical facilities in Kuwait.

Those attending the seminar include Kate Stuart, dietitian from Guy's Hospital, London; Shona McIntyre from the Children's Hospital, Sheffield; and Leslie Robertson from Cardiff.

Local speakers at the seminar are Dr Faisal Kuffash, Dr Ahmed Tebbi, Dr Azza Shalout, Dr Janet Yassa, Dr N.V. Doraiswamy and Dr A.A. Al Zooki. The team of dietitians is led by Dr Fawzia Al Awadhi, who is director of the seminar and head of the Nutrition Department at the Sabah Hospital.

The seminar has been sponsored by the Ministry of Health and the catering division of the Tariq Al Ghanim company.



● The public relations department of the Interior Ministry organized a lecture at the Fahaheel secondary boys school on the role of youths in cooperating with the police. The lecture was given in cooperation with the Education Ministry. Picture shows Lt. Mohammed Al Zubli of Ahmadi Governorate and Lt. Nasser Al Enzi of the Ahmadi Traffic Department who gave the talks.

Few outlets for pent-up tension in troubled Gulf

Seamen while away their time playing 'poker for pay'

ON BOARD THE USS SIMPSON, March 15, (Reuters): Deep below decks on the heavily-armed American warship, half-a-dozen seamen huddle round a table in their cramped quarters, whispering and fidgeting nervously.

For the moment, they have forgotten the free-floating mines, Iranian speedboats, Silk worms, missiles and erratic Iraqi jet fighters that have turned the Gulf into the world's most dangerous waterway.

They are more worried that an officer might walk in and catch them playing 'poker for pay', an infraction that could lead to severe disciplinary action.

"If I don't come up with a solid hand, I can kiss half a month's salary goodbye," said one sailor.

Monotony

Crewmen say large sums are won and lost every night aboard warships in the Gulf. But cash never changes hands at the card table. Debts are settled on pay day, out of sight of eavesdropping officers.

High-stakes poker matches are legendary on US Navy warships, where crewmen turn to gambling to while away long, tedious hours at sea.

But sailors say the card games have reached a new level of intensity in the troubled Gulf, where there are few outlets for pent-up tension.

The Simpson, a sleek guided-missile frigate, regularly runs a gauntlet of dangers in the 900-km waterway, escorting US-flagged tankers through the Iranian war zone.

Convoy duty has taken on an air of routine and the monotony is broken by only occasional moments of high anxiety.

Sailors on six-month tours complain that they get less shore leave than anywhere else in the world — only one or two days a month.

They collect "imminent danger" pay bonuses, but most say these are not enough to compensate for the hardships.

Some seamen complain privately that the United States has no heroes acting as policemen in the Gulf, protecting tankers taking oil mostly to Europe and Japan.

Mines

To let off steam, crewmen on the Simpson can vie for the title of "iron man", a grueling contest that involves weight-lifting, rope-climbing and pushups.

Low-budget karate films are the mainstay of the Simpson's film library and some sailors have seen them so many times they have memorised the lines.

An international armada of minesweepers has reduced sharply the threat of Iranian mines in the Gulf, Navy officers say.

But American warships still remain alert to the danger, treating every mysterious floating object as a potential threat.

That has led to some unusual cases of mistaken identity. Sailors on the lookout for mines have encountered floated sheep carcasses, rubbish bags, discarded tyres and giant sea snakes.

"A mine can ruin a captain's day. But an encounter with a dead sheep in the morning light can ruin his breakfast," said Captain Donald Dyer, commodore of a destroyer squadron.

In one instance, the sight of a large dark cylinder caused a warship to change course abruptly

and take aim with its cannon, ready to blow it out of the water.

A closer inspection showed it was a sea turtle sunning itself in the waves.

As the Simpson steams through a danger zone, "the professor" stands before a blackboard in the mess hall and lectures sailors on the writings of Karl Marx.

Robert McCarter, a balding 48-year-old college professor, seems strangely out of place aboard an American warship on patrol in the war-torn Gulf.

He is the only civilian onboard, hired to teach business courses to the Simpson's 218 men.

The crew fondly refer to him as "the professor" and wonder what possessed the diminutive scholar from St Augustine, Florida, to volunteer for the most hazardous sea duty the Navy has to offer.

Distracting

Even McCarter acknowledges misgivings. "I wouldn't do this again with a war on. It's too distracting," he said.

When McCarter first signed up for the programme for allied college education he pictured himself making "exotic ports" of call in the Mediterranean. Little did he know he would end up in the Gulf, sandwiched between arch-enemies Iran and Iraq.

His lessons on economic theory, business administration and accounting are interrupted frequently by safety drills and false alarms.

So far, McCarter's lecture on Marxist theory is the only one to raise eyebrows among his pupils, some of whom viewed it as an affront to their patriotism.

Marriage between Kuwaiti men and women

Dowries a major obstacle

HIGH dowries has been one of the major obstacles to marriage among Kuwaitis in this country, and played a major role in forcing Kuwaiti men to marry non-Kuwaitis.

Bedouins were the most affected by this social custom, and a related custom called bridegroom aid. All relatives and friends of the bridegroom, according to this custom, must help the bridegroom with some money, not less than KD30 or with sheep or camels.

As the tribal relations are still very strong among Bedouins, this custom was a great burden on the budget of most of them particularly if two or three of their friends married in one month.

To put an end to this problem,

members of the Rashaydah tribe met and decided to limit the dowry to a maximum of KD5,000 and limited the aid to only KD20 per person.

The tribesmen pledged to keep to the agreement in their marriages.

When asked about the new agreement, a number of well-known figures and ordinary people among Bedouins warmly welcomed this step.

Mubarak Al Duwailah said that this idea has been there for a long time until things reached very dangerous levels.

He said that ordinary people, who mainly depended upon their modest salaries, had to borrow from their friends to meet such social commitments. He said that some of the dowries reached

KD25,000 and had resulted in pushing young people to immoral behaviour and to marry non-Kuwaiti wives as the only solution to their dilemma.

He said that the decision was taken after a series of meetings and 60 men representing 60 families of the Rashaydah signed the agreement which came into effect on Dec 31.

He said that the first marriage under the new agreement was carried out a few days ago.

Al Duwailah expected some resistance from women, but added that this resistance will disappear gradually. He advised other tribes to follow suit and adopt this agreement.

Hassan Thyah pointed out that the agreement was a very good step and that the amount of the dowry was reasonable, if people took into consideration that KD2,000 is paid by the government.

He said that the exaggeration in the amount of dowries turned women into a kind of commodity and this can not be accepted by Muslims and Islam.

He said that in most cases the marriage expenses reached between KD15,000-20,000, an amount that will put anyone under heavy debts.

On ways to control the agreement and ensure its proper implementation, he said that men who violate the agreement will not have their marriage parties attended and fathers who ask for higher dowries than KD5,000 will face the possibility that the bridegroom may leave their daughter.

Others warmly welcomed the step and hoped that others would do the same.

War of the cities rages in full fury

(Continued from Page 1)

killing 50 civilians and wounding around 250 others.

"The Katyushas are the worst," Al Hadithi said. "The Iraqis use truck-mounted launchers which means they can fire and run before our people can locate them. The shrapnel bursts from the rockets is worse than the shells and they kill more people."

The Iraqi spokesman said jets downed an Iranian helicopter in the northern Gulf at 10:59 am (07:59 GMT) and helicopter gunships after 15 minutes shot down another — the third claimed by Iraq in the past 24 hours.

Tehran Radio said Iranian jets inflicted heavy losses in raids on Iraqi troop positions at Raniya and Qala Diza in the north and Zubaidat and Al Amarrah on the south central warfronts.

Fighting

Iraqi officials have so far made no comment on Tehran reports of fighting in mountainous northeastern Iraq in which the Iraqis say Iraq has suffered over 2,100 casualties.

The Iraqis reported no long-range missile attacks on Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, or any other cities.

The absence of any missile attack on Baghdad heightened the belief that the Iraqis, long outgunned by its enemy in the Gulf war, may have exhausted their arsenal of long-range missiles in an exchange with the Iraqis that began Feb 29.

So far, the Iraqis have reported shooting 86 long-range missiles into Tehran and other Iranian cities in the last 16 days. In contrast, Iran has only claimed to have loosed off 31 in that period.

Aimed

Western diplomatic sources in Baghdad said that most of the Iranian missiles fired since Feb 29 have exploded in the southeast of the city.

They said the missiles, apparently aimed at military bases and industrial targets such as power plants and oil refineries, have caused fewer casualties than expected. They said some exploded harmlessly in open ground.

Iraqi warplanes also attacked a supertanker in Iranian waters in the northern Gulf today.

The tanker was identified as the 249,233-ton Trade Fortitude,

which flies the Liberian flag and was formerly named World Truth.

The executives, who spoke on condition they not be named, said the tanker was hit south of Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal at the northeastern head of the Gulf.

The sources had no more details on the extent of the damage or whether there were any casualties. But they said they had advised their vessels to be on the alert in case of an Iranian counter-attack, usually carried out by speedboats in the southern part of the waterway in the dark.

Basis

Iran retaliates on a ship-for-ship basis for each successful Iraqi strike on its oil shipping lanes in what is commonly known as the "tanker war".

In New York, UN Security Council sources said yesterday the Council decided after closed-door consultations to work on a new statement calling for a halt to the fighting between Iran and Iraq.

They said the Soviet Union backed off from a request last week for an urgent meeting of the Council to discuss the war of the cities.

The Iranian statement criticised the Security Council for failing to provide a fundamental solution to the Iran-Iraq war.

Resumption

Britain today appealed to Iraq to abide by the unilateral truce it declared in the war of the cities last week and deplored the resumption of attacks on civilian targets in the Gulf war, the Foreign Office said.

"Sir Geoffrey deplored the resumption of attacks on civilian targets and urged Iraq to abide by the ceasefire announced in Baghdad on March 10," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Headed that Howetold Aziz, Britain was pursuing a two-track policy at the United Nations in support of efforts to implement a UN Security Council ceasefire resolution "while working seriously on an arms embargo resolution."

Spring holiday

THE Undersecretary of Kuwait's Education Ministry Abdul Rahman Al Khudari said there would be no change in the date for the spring holiday, denying rumours that a change was to be made following complaints about the January 9 to 23 date.

Khudari said the educational process had to be evaluated on the total process rather than one single aspect. He explained that the holiday had been determined after careful study and that parents should adjust to the vacation schedule. He added that it coincided with the university vacation.

Appointment of doctors

KUWAIT'S Civil Service Commission has agreed "in principle" to the appointment of 55 physicians and technicians by the Health Ministry to meet the personal needs at some health centres.

Dr Nael Al Naquih, the health undersecretary, said the agreement had been reached as a result of a meeting between the health minister and the undersecretary of the CSC. He added that the 55 appointments would be made to replace doctors and technicians who had resigned or had died.

Arafat expects Arab summit on uprising next month

ALGIERS, March 15, (Agencies): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said today he expected a special Arab summit on the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories to take place next month.

The Algerian Press Agency APS quoted Arafat as saying nine Arab countries had so far backed the February 28 call by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid for a summit to give further impetus to the uprising.

Approval

Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said he expected other Arab countries to agree this week.

In Tunis, the Arab League secretariat received Djibouti's approval to attend the proposed emergency Arab summit conference, Arab League official sources said.

The sources also said that Djibouti has sent an official memorandum to the Arab League accepting to attend the summit meeting, proposed by Algeria.

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The sources also said that Djibouti has sent an official memorandum to the Arab League accepting to attend the summit meeting, proposed by Algeria.

Venue

So far nine Arab countries have accepted the proposal, including Algeria and the PLO.

Kuna also learnt from Arab League official sources that a delegation representing the seven-man committee will leave for Paris tonight within the framework of talks with the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council on the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Adsani reviews activities of ACO

RIYADH, March 15, (Kuna): Secretary-General of the Arab Cities Organisation Abdul Aziz Yousef Al Adsani has said that the ACO's important targets in the upcoming period is to maintain and develop accomplishments.

Adsani, in a statement on the occasion of the Arab Cities Day which falls on March 15, reviewed the Saudi-based organisation's activities and institutes.

He urged, in the statement carried yesterday by the Saudi Press Agency, for planting trees and increasing the green areas in the Arab cities.

The Secretary-General, a Kuwaiti, pointed to sufferings of inhabitants of the Arab cities in Palestine under occupation and called for backing the Palestinian people's uprising against the Zionist occupiers' atrocities.

He further mentioned damages inflicted in Iraqi cities as a result of the war with Iran and hailed steadfastness of that Arab country and its peace calls.

Transfer of technology meeting

THE National Committee for the Transfer of Technology met on Saturday under the chairmanship of its general rapporteur Moayed Abdul Aziz Al Rasheed.

The activities of the Coordinating Information and Educational Affairs Sub-committee were reviewed at the meeting. Plans for a symposium on the development of research and industrial establishments, to be held in Kuwait in October sponsored by the Kuwait Engineers Society and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, were also discussed.

Judgement withheld

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court withheld judgement in the case of a man charged with bringing in a small quantity of cocaine from the US.

The man, a recent graduate in electrical engineering, said he was given the substance by one of his friends and that he didn't know what it was.

The court ruled that since the man was just beginning his career he would be released on good conduct for six months.

Sentence upheld

KUWAIT'S Court of Appeal upheld a five year sentence with hard labour to be followed by deportation against a man found guilty of raping a child.

The Court of First Instance had sentenced the man to seven years hard labour after testimony given in court proved that he had taken the child in his car to a secluded area and raped him in the backseat, and then confessed his crime to a passing police patrolman.

The Engineers and staff of
GULF CONSULT
are grieved and offer their condolences to
Alghanim family
and
Mr. Hamad A.T. Alghanim
on the passing away of his father
MR. ABDUL LATIF THUNYAN ALGHANIM

انالله وانا اليه راجعون

هكذا من الامم

VIDEO CORNER

A glossy version of old classic

By Shaun Seekins

BASED on Mario Puzo's novel *The Sicilian* stars Christopher Lambert in a role that matches his moody macho image. In Francesco Rosi's classic 1962 film, Salvatore Giuliano, the bandit was only seen in close-up in the morgue. Rosi was only interested in the way a small-time peasant bandit became a myth for his people and how he was then used for political purposes. Very little of this comes through in Michael Cimino's version.

Cimino's treatment of the bandit is rather whimsical, this Giuliano weeps when his men fire at the poor communist peasants rather than over their heads. The script glosses over the fact that the real Giuliano became in the end a highwayman preying mainly on the rich but becoming so violent that the Mafia was forced to have him killed. Anyway, altogether a watchable diversion with some good acting from Joss Ackland as the Mafia

boss, John Turturro as the bandit's Judas-like henchman and Guila Boschi as a charming peasant girl with left-wing sympathies.

The main problem with the film is that it is not mainstream enough to please the fans of its star Molly Ringwald, nor probing enough to please those who might normally turn out for director James Toback's work.

The finished product looks as though Toback has attempted a compromise, superimposing a light romance onto his favourite underworld gambling motif in form a meaty teen film. Ringwald is given a poorly conceived character: a museum guide who is picked up by Robert Downey, a compulsive womaniser who lives for the chase. When she drops him after one meeting, his fascination with women turns into an obsession with Ringwald. Why? We are never told. She is undoubtedly nervous about her suitor discovering that her

alcoholic father has run up huge gambling debts with two mobsters who have given him 24 hours to pay. Still, Downey manages to thrust himself into the middle of things when he suddenly appears at her door in search of her phone number. Some good performances from the stars but they all seem to rely very much on their established screen characters without developing anything new for this film.

For the incurably romantic among us, *Made in Heaven* is especially for you, a lightweight frothy romantic comedy starring Timothy Hutton and Kelly McGillis. It tells how when Mike Shea (Hutton) arrives in Heaven after having drowned rescuing a woman and her children from a submerged car, he immediately falls in love with his perfect soulmate Annie Packard (McGillis) a pure oev being who has never lived on earth. Their celestial bliss is cut short by Emmett (stylishly played by Debra Winger, the

"arranger" of all things, who sends Annie off into the world as Ally Chandler. Emmett then reluctantly allows Mike to be born again on earth and grants him 30 years in which to find Annie although he will not remember his heavenly existence.

The new Gaudie Hawn comedy *Overboard* has arrived: two new bestsellers are available this week. *Windmills of the Gods* by Sydney Sheldon and a Walt Disney sci-fi adventure *Eyewitness*. Dallas and Dynasty continue together with the British soap opera *Eastenders*. Two new Basketball matches and Rugby International Scotland vs England and Ireland vs Wales. *Space Island* is a sci-fi adventure loosely based on the Treasure Island story and should be good for older children. The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Safeway, Farwaniya; Video Nauf, Salmiya. Tel: 2432809; and at Video Club, Salmiya, Tel: 5724372.

Christopher Lambert in *The Sicilian*

Best play of the season

By Keith Wells

KLT's current production of *The Vicar of Wakefield* down in Ahmad is by far the best production I have seen in Kuwait this season. Brilliantly directed by Clive Jaques the play opens with a stunning silhouette sequence that sets the tone and atmosphere of the evening with exquisite grace.

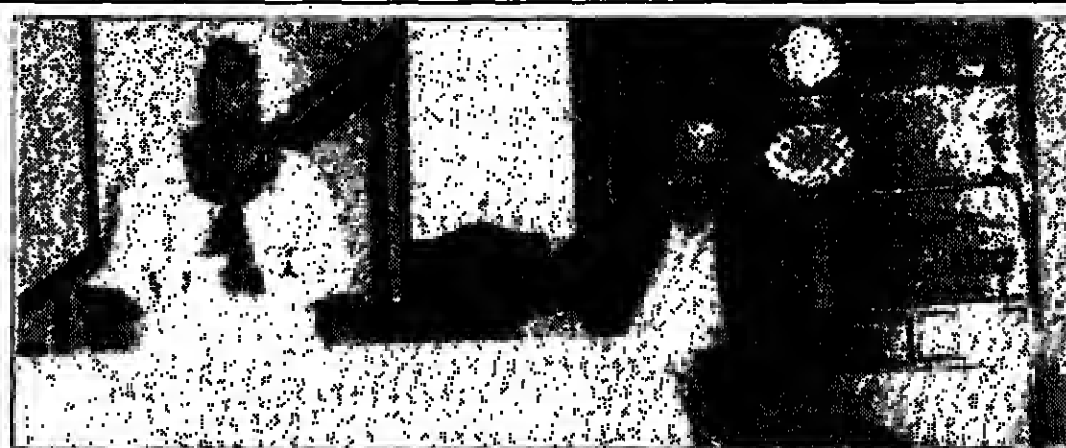
Unusually for amateur theatre, the cast is almost uniformly excellent with a couple of real star performances as well. Clive Jaques plays the title role with a natural mellifluous eloquence that is perfectly suited to the ironical old gentleman. The vicar's wife is played by Maureen Wringe and her beautifully musical voice, clarity of diction and wonderful comic timing provided many moments of pure delight. When Maureen and Clive are playing together they sound like two fine musicians as the witty lines fly back and forth filled with subtleties and nuances that most actors would not even be aware of let alone

be able to articulate. Their duets were the high spot of the evening and the audience loved every minute.

Touch
Peter Fairbrother also gave a fine performance as Mr Thornhill, all foppery, frippery and fraudulence, the very paradigm of an eighteenth century squire. He was very convincing, even his accent was just right, a slight affected stammer giving just the right touch of authenticity. David Burfoot was very strong as Mr Burchell, and although he had a few problems with the dialogue, his acting compensated for his minor problems of articulation.

Norma Williams and Elaine Perkins were quite charming as the vicar's daughters and Janet Dougherty was ravishing as the heiress, Arabella Wilmot. David Jones got plenty of laughs as their slow-witted brother and Jim Tuttle gave a hilarious cameo performance as the Irish conman, Mr Jenkins.

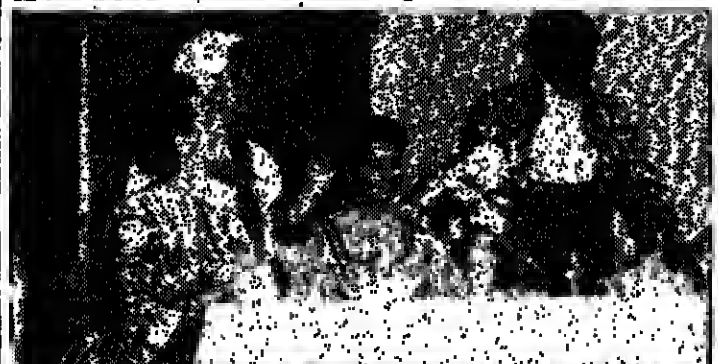
The plot of the play is a little bit of a bore, you can see it coming a mile off, but it doesn't



Maureen Wringe and Clive Jaques starring in 'The Vicar of Wakefield.'

matter. The pleasure is all in the dialogue. Without giving too much away, the story turns around the social aspirations of the vicar's wife who is desperate to find rich and respectable spouses for all her children. Her attempts at sophistication are very funny and her wordy ambitions are invariably thwarted by her unworshipful innocence. For a while, the comedy becomes more of a drama, but tragedy is averted, and everything ends happily as virtue is rewarded.

The costumes were simply gorgeous and Ann Mansell and her fellow seamstresses did a fine job in creating the right period atmosphere. But in the end the evening belonged to the cast. It's the test of a good actor that he, or she, carries on acting even when they don't have any lines to deliver, and all of the major players carried this difficult feat off to perfection. Don't let the period setting put you off, it's the best show we've had the chance to see for a long time and there are still a few seats left for tonight and tomorrow.



(L-R): Olive Blackburn, Maureen Wringe, Elaine Perkins and Stephen Morris.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery
Egyptian artist Magdi Kenawy is showing his latest collection of lithographs and prints at the gallery in Salmiya Complex. The exhibition is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8 pm, until March 31.

MUSIC

Rock 'n' Romance
Kuwait Players present Rock 'n' Romance, a rock show with a romantic touch, directed by June Stevenson and Phil Thomas, featuring music by Eric Clapton, Dire Straits, Elton John, Chopin and others. It will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel at 8 pm on March 20, 21, 22, 23 and at 3 pm and 8 pm on March 24. For details call 5624175, after 2 pm, or 5745838.

THEATRE

Kuwait Little Theatre
KLT will perform *The Vicar of Wakefield*, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith. Gala opening at 8.15 pm tonight and on Thursday. For reservations ring 3983724.

CINEMA

British Council
Little Lord Fauntleroy is the title of this month's film for children. It is a heart-warming story of eight year old Ceddie, whose happy life with his widowed American mother is transformed when he becomes Little Lord Fauntleroy. It will be shown tonight at 6 pm and on Thursday at 10.30 am. This month's feature film for adults is entitled *The Emerald Forest*. The production by John Boorman is the mystical story of a young white boy spirited away by a tribe and then initiated into manhood.

and full membership. Elements of magic, fantasy, myth and anthropological fact are introduced in this story. This film will be shown at 6.30 pm on March 19 and 20. Admission free but it is advisable to make reservations. Tel: 2515512.

SOCIAL

Prize-giving Ceremony
The Bangladesh School, Kuwait, will hold the prize distribution ceremony on Friday, March 18, Friday, 6.30 pm, at the Ibn Taimiya Secondary School, Hassawi. All Bangladeshis are welcome.

German-Speaking Ladies Association
The election of new committee members will be held at 8 pm on Saturday, March 19 at the Kuwait Hilton's Old Failaka Room. All German-speaking members are required to attend this meeting.

May Queen
The May Queen will be crowned at a special event which will be held on May 16 at the Sheraton Hotel. Highlight of the evening will be a fashion show of clothes designed by Tapati Ray. Two local hands—Stepping Stones and City Limits—will provide entertainment. The event is being organised by the Kuwait Goans Association.

Filipino Get-together
The next "kumustahan" (get-together) will be held on Saturday, March 26, 5-8 pm in the Church Hall. All Filipinos are invited. Free snacks will be served. Admission free.

Contact
The next meeting of the ladies information group, Contact, will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 10 am at the SAS Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details phone 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

Daniella
The '88 Revue will be performed at the Gazelle Club on March 17 at 7.30 pm. It is the major family event of the year. Children are welcome.

EDUCATION

Open Evening
There will be an open evening today, 5-8 pm, at the British Council in Mansouriya for anyone interested in studying Business Administration, Management and Finance in Britain. A wide range of information will be on display with details of courses to suit both students and professionals. For details phone 2515512.

SPORTS

Sports Festival for Children
A sports festival for Bangladesh children will be held on April 8. For details contact 4840759; 4710306; 5716586; 3903605. All Bangladeshis are welcome.

Interscholar Knockout '88
A series of sports and games featuring student and teacher teams from Kuwait's schools will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel. For details contact the hotel. Poolside barbecue and dinner for spectators.

Kuwait Rally
The 1988 Kuwait International Rally will be held on March 17 and 18. The rally starts on Thursday (March 17) at 1 pm from the SAS Hotel carpark, and the first night's action will be in the Jahra/Doha areas. Main Control will be at Entertainment City, and the cars can be seen there between 4.30 pm and 6 pm. The cars return to SAS at 10 pm, and the rally resumes at 9 am the next morning. Stages will be in the Maqwa and Sulabiya areas and the cars can be seen at Friday at Main Control from 12.30 pm. The rally finish is at the SAS Hotel at 5.15 pm.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Dubai Pharmacy
Mohd. Ali Al Rida Bldg.,
Algiers St.

Al Sharq Al Jedid Pharmacy
Opp. Science Museum,
Souk Safat

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Ikhlis Pharmacy
Opp. Andalus, Beirut St.

Salmiya and Rumaitiya
Ibn Nafis Pharmacy
Hmoud Khalifa Al Hamida
Bldg., Hamad Al Mubarak
St.

Jleeb Al Shiyouk
Al Wahran Pharmacy
Souk St.
Jahra

Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah
Bldg., Matafi St.

Fahaheel and Ahmadi
Abu Habbah Pharmacy
Coast Road, Abu Habbah

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Closed
Al Salmiya
Arabic play

Al Hamra
Tough Guys
Starring: Kirk Douglas,
Burt Lancaster

Drive-In
Shahab Fi Al Jaheem
(Arabic)
Starring: Mamdouh Abdul
Alim, Mirvat Ameen

Al Firdus
Namak Halal (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Smita Patil

Fahaheel Open-Air
Dilruha Tangewali (Hindi)
Starring: Hemant Birje,
Sripadha Krishna

Al Jahra
Brazil

Al Fahaheel
Uroos Min Damishq
(Arabic)

Granada
Rajul Fi Uyoun Imraa
(Arabic)

Sulaibikhat
Oridathu (Malayalam)

Al Jleeb
The Highest Honour

Ahmadi Drive-In
Maut Samira (Arabic)

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.37 am
Zuhr	11.67
Asr	3.22 pm
Maghreb	5.58
Isha	7.14

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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News via Satellite
3.30 Ihtal Al Mu'Laeb: cartoons
4.00 News Summary
4.05 World News via Satellite
4.25 Ghadah Al Sahara: historical serial, starring Abdul Rahman Al Rish Sahar Rami
5.15 Bain Al Ama Wa Al Yum: Between Yesterday and Today. Fatima Al Toq takes a pictorial look at Kuwait
6.00 Songs
7.00 News Summary
7.05 With Students: hosted by Essa Rushnud
7.45 Our Trading: a local programme on selling farm produce
8.15 Good Evening and Local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Suraj Al Simt: part

15 of Arabic serial, starring Sana Jamil, Hamdi Ghaith, Anwar Ismael, Mimi Jamal, Ahmad Badr.
10.50 Music Studio: a variety show featuring Abdullah Rowashad, Bahrain singer Mohammad Alayat, Noora, Mohammad Buloshi and others.
12.15 News Summary
12.20 World News via Satellite
1.00 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

3.30 Holy Quran
3.35 Report on the Arab Gulf Football Tournament.
4.10 Football Match: Saudi Arabia vs. Iraq
6.00 Football match: Bahrain vs. Qatar
8.00 News in English
8.40 J. J. Starbuck: Dale

Robertson plays a millionaire who helps solve crime.
9.30 The World of Strange Power: "Walking on Fire."

10.00 Perfect Strangers: Balki embarrasses cousin Larry at a painting exhibition. Comedy.

10.30 Falcon Crest: this soap opera continues with the tussle for power between Angela and Melissa. Starring: Jane Wymann, Susan Sullivan, David Selby and Ann Alicia.

11.30 Report from Saudi Arabia.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsweek
30 Omnibus
0100 News Summary followed by
Outlook
30 Report on Religion
45 Country Style
0200 World News
09 Commentary
15 Chain Reaction
30 Citizens
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 Discovery
0400 Newsweek
30 Byron Readings (ex 30th New Ideal)
40 Book Choice
45 Reflections
50 Financial News
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Report on Religion (ex 30th The Wondrous Cross)
45 The World Today
0600 Newsweek
30 Meridian

0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Development '88
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 Classical Record Review
30 My Word
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Folk in Britain/Jazz Scene UK
1000 News Summary followed by
Omnibus
30 Yes Minister
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Byron Readings (ex 30th The 1900 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Development '88
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 Report on Religion
1500 Radio Newsweek
15 Education Today
30 The Good Human Guide (ex 23rd King Street Junior, 30th Two Cheers for March)
1600 World News
09 Commentary
15 Rock Salad
45 The World Today

1700 World News
09 A Letter from Wales
15 The Story of English
30 New Ideas
40 Book Choice
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newsweek
30 Multitrack 2

English

08.00 Opening
08.02 Songs and Music
08.05 Writers and Poets in Arabic Literature
08.20 Songs and Music
08.30 News
08.40 Songs and Music
08.45 Daily Programme
09.00 Golden Collection
09.30 Album Tracks
10.00 Our Press Today
10.05 Songs and Music
11.00 Closedown
13.30 News on FM Service
Evening
21.00 Opening
21.02 Pop Scene
21.30 News
21.45 Point of View
21.55 Songs and Music
22.15 Musical Celebrities
22.45 Daily Programme
23.00 Soul With A Beat
23.30 Choice of the Week
24.00 Closedown

Christian Dior

MAQUILLAGE HAUTE COULEUR



LES BOUQUETS. NEW COLLECTION SPRING/SUMMER

Christian Dior Beauticians will demonstrate the Christian Dior style of applying "LES BOUQUETS", the latest colour collection, and give advice on proper skin care at the following Christian Dior retail outlets:

OUTLETS	TEL. NO.	DATES (March)	OUTLETS	TEL. NO.	DATES (March)
Jashanmal & Partners Ltd., Kuwait.	2420071/72..	2 to 15	Safeway, Fahaheel.....	3927228/9..	2 to 15
Jashanmal & Partners Ltd., Salmiya.	5721865.....	2 to 15	Samah Center, Salmiya.....	5726700.....	12 & 13
Al Gharabally Store, Ahmadi.	3981929.....	2 to 15	Al Sammak Co., Hawalli.....	2667867.....	13
Safeway, Farwaniya.....	4738933.....	2 to 15	Dalyah Co-op. Society.....	2516879.....	14
	Ext. 111		Al Gharabally Store, Ahmadi.....	2468889.....	15
			Sultan Centre, Salmiya.....	5786201/2..	17 & 18
			Beauty Corner.....	2447890.....	

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IMAGINATION has always had powers of resurrection that no science can match — Ingrid Bengis, US author (1944—).

Blood-letting has not abated

Rajiv's initiative off to rocky start

By Jonathan S. Landay

NEW DELHI, (UPI): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's new initiative to end Sikh extremist violence in Punjab is off to a rocky start. The blood-letting has not abated, and any identifiable strategy is obscured by seemingly inconsistent decisions.

"We are wholly unable to make any sense out of the government's actions and pronouncements," said the influential Times of India.

Rajiv's declared aim is to revive a dialogue with Sikh factions to settle the Sikh militant fight for independence for the Punjab. In almost five years of violence that battle has killed thousands of people.

There has been a complete absence of a political initiative by Rajiv since the failure of an accord signed with moderate Sikh leaders in June 1985, conceding several demands in order to deprive the extremists of support.

Rajiv later admitted a political approach is useless until stability is restored.

But 10 months of direct rule of Punjab by New Delhi has left that goal unattained. Now analysts believe Rajiv has been forced to change his attitude to dispel charges of inaction before next year's scheduled nationwide elections.

"All these things are being planned with an eye on the elections," said political columnist K. R. Sundar Rajan.

Dialogue

Rajiv's basic plan to revive some kind of dialogue is still unknown. But any optimism has been chilled by unabated Sikh extremist slayings, including the March 3 attack that boosted fatalities to more than 350 this year, and by decisions that appear inconsistent with a cohesive policy.

The government opened its initiative hours after Sikh gunmen massacred 34 Sikh and Hindu March near the Punjab city of Hoshiarpur.

They also released 40 of some 370 Sikhs arrested in the June 1984 Army assault on extremists in the Golden Temple of Amritsar, Sikhdom's holiest shrine. Releasing all the detainees is a major demand of all Sikh factions, who contend most of the

prisoners were pilgrims.

The government freed five Sikh high priests arrested for backing an independent "Khalistan" in Punjab, which the extremists claim is the only way to protect India's 16 million Sikhs from discrimination by the Hindu-dominated government.

Sikh and non-Sikh politicians welcomed the releases, believing they were part of a political deal. The released priests contended they made no commitment to Rajiv—but they declined to reaffirm support for "Khalistan." Instead they said Sikhs should have "complete freedom," and it was up to the government as to whether that was "inside or outside" India.

If that was the opening Rajiv was hoping for, he showed no sign of it. Instead he ordered the dissolution of Punjab's assembly suspended last May when New Delhi took over the state and fired its moderate Sikh administration.

This move prompted speculation that Rajiv's peace plan would call for new state elections. But the government said it dissolved the assembly—now controlled by pro-militant legislators after a power struggle with moderates—because lawmakers were interfering with security forces and aiding extremists.

More important, the move thwarted a plan by the assembly majority to elect two prominent Sikh militants, one of whom is in jail, to the national parliament.

Amendment

New Delhi then announced it would seek a constitutional amendment allowing it to extend its emergency rule of Punjab indefinitely. This is now limited to a one-year period expiring May 11.

These actions appeared to many observers inconsistent with any peace plan, said the Times of India: "No actions or statements can be reconciled with each other, however one may wish to interpret them."

Columnist Sunder Rajan, however, said Rajiv might be using a "carrot and stick" approach, approving the limited prisoner release and then signaling to the militants that they should not underestimate his good will and should reciprocate for the releases.

Egypt cashes in on improved Arab ties

By John Rogers

CAIRO, (Reuters): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is on the dance floor again for another minute with his regular partners: the Arab states, Israel, the Americans and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

And he will be hoping to keep them from trampling on his toes.

Things are not going too well with Israel but he has pledged not to jilt her. Israeli killing of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza has angered Cairo.

Egypt's newly-revived relations with the Arabs, on the other hand, are going rather better.

Mubarak, facing a host of economic difficulties, hopes to cash in on this rapprochement without having to turn his back on the Israelis.

The United States brought Egypt and the Israelis together and the US bankroll and political clout will probably keep them together. West European diplomats believe.

Aid

"The Arabs are not going to replace the Americans here," one said, noting that Washington pumps \$2.3 billion a year in military and economic aid into the most populous Arab state.

But Egypt is also seeking Arab money to enhance the improved political ties. Eleven Arab states restored full diplomatic links with Cairo over the past four months.

Arab economic support will be especially welcome if the IMF, due to pronounce soon on Egypt's economic reforms under a standby credits deal last May, gives an adverse verdict.

A prominent Egyptian journalist said Arab governments would back Cairo's resolve to reform at its own pace and not to have IMF medicine forced down its throat.

"How could the Fund imagine Egypt would accept the con-

trary?" asked Al-Ahram editor Ibrahim Nafah in an editorial seen as reflecting official views.

"It is Arab brothers who would also not accept that for Egypt, these very brothers who consolidate the budgets and economies of many Western countries," Nafah wrote.

Four events this weekend illustrated the theme for Mubarak's minut:

● The president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, started the first state visit by an Arab ruler since most Arab countries decided last November to turn a blind eye to Egypt's peace pact with Israel.

● Israel stayed away from the annual international trade fair in Cairo for the first time since their 1979 peace treaty.

● Senior IMF officials started a secret review of Egypt's economic reforms under a schedule agreed last May. If Cairo and the Fund fail to agree, rescheduling of Egypt's \$4.3 billion foreign debt may be in jeopardy from July.

● Egypt started a conference on Arab investment, pitching for 4.5 billion pounds (\$2 billion) in funding for 80 industrial and agricultural projects. Current Arab investment in Egyptian projects is about three billion pounds (\$1.4 billion).

Egyptian economy minister Youssif Mustapha pointedly told the investment conference on Sunday the Arab states had an estimated \$850-billion financial surplus.

"We consider Arab investments in Egypt one of the main points in the cause of development in the entire Arab world," he said.

How far Egypt can attract Arab economic help without a return on the outlay is open to question.

The task is proving painful and disturbing

Soviets rewrite history at Gorbachev's behest

By Charles Mitchell

MOSCOW, (UPI): Armed with a mandate from Mikhail Gorbachev, Soviet historians are plunging forward into the past to produce a more realistic version of the nation's post-revolutionary history. The task is proving painful and disturbing.

Unlike previous retouches of the past which surfaced mostly in obscure academic journals, the current one is getting prominent display in the popular press, right there with the weekly crime figures and what's on at the movies.

Television has pitched in as well by airing a documentary on Lenin's death that included film clips last seen in 1925. They showed such "non-persons" as 'enemy of the people' Leon Trotsky and others who perished in the Stalin purges.

But the pain of past lies and cover-ups is proving difficult to swallow. Not all Soviets are glad to see skeletons come tumbling out of history's closet.

"Some insist that it's about time to quit raking up the past, discussing its tragedies and its crimes because this allegedly only serves to ruin our ideals," said the newspaper Moscow News. "But to think along these lines means admitting that our ideals are rooted in the poisoned soil of arbitrariness, lawlessness and crime."

Soviet governments always have been unwilling to admit mistakes. They took great pains to cover up or re-interpret embarrassing events, sometimes

even denying reality. For example, histories only reluctantly have admitted to the 1939 Soviet-German non-aggression pact that led to the German invasion of Poland and the start of World War II.

To explain the Soviet Union's dismal performance and unpreparedness at that time, official histories accuse the allies of delaying a second European front to allow Nazi Germany to cripple the Soviet Union. There have been hints at an allied-German conspiracy against Moscow.

Similar allegations were characteristic of the George Orwell novel "1984," written in 1949, in which official history was routinely rewritten as alliances shifted and key figures changed.

In the Soviet Union today, Gorbachev believes the system's historical failures and shortcomings must be shown to pave the way for his new system of law and economic philosophy.

Thus the spate of sometimes entertaining, certainly disturbing but never dull revelations. Among the most recent and shocking appearing in mass circulation newspapers:

● The rotund Nikita Khrushchev leading the politburo in a victory toast only minutes after Stalin's ruthless KGB chief, Lavrenty Beria, was dragged from a Kremlin meeting room following a politburo vote approving his execution as an "agent of imperialism."

The report said Khrushchev and Beria were armed with hand-



Mikhail Gorbachev

guns at the Politburo meetings. Most Soviets know only that Beria "disappeared" and few would have thought their leaders attended cabinet meetings carrying weapons.

● Dictator Josef Stalin himself, reduced to an ineffectual if not sniveling shadow of a wartime leader, prepared to abandon Moscow and its people to the advancing Nazis.

Riots and looting broke out in Moscow Oct 16-17, 1941, when workers discovered all the bridges and metro stations had been wired with explosives for destruction. Most Communist Party members secretly fled the city at night. Official texts refer to complete calm and dedication in the city at that time, without a thought of leaving the city to Hitler's troops.

● Stalin's bodyguards standing like statues outside his bedroom door for four hours as the dictator lay speechless on the floor, succumbing to a fatal stroke. They were told never to enter his room without permission. At the time of his death in 1953 he was so paranoid about doctors that

an Army veterinarian assistant was the only person he trusted to treat him.

Newspapers for the first time have printed Lenin's deathbed denunciation of Stalin, his eventual successor.

The Stalin purges that killed up to 15 million people, once the most taboo of subjects, are now openly debated even if the guilt pangs of the nation and the communist system that permitted it have still not gone away.

Some Soviets even laugh at the confusion. In a recent Moscow news cartoon, a student asks a stern-looking teacher clutching a history book if she wants the official answer to her question or the correct one based on what really happened.

Although hardly matching the scope, drama, and official stamp of Soviet rewrites, American history also is constantly being reappraised by US historians.

Dr Richard Duncan of Georgetown University in Washington said American figures of the past tend to go up and down in the "ratings" depending which historian is writing and what new information is found.

"We do it all the time," Duncan said, "but not in an official way. There is no mandate from the state."

Duncan said some US figures whose stature has improved with perspective are President Harry Truman, who was not well regarded by his contemporaries in the early 1950s; Lyndon Johnson, for whom "it will be difficult to come up with a balanced opinion" because of his efforts in civil rights on one side and the Viet-

nam war on the other; and Richard Nixon, of whom historians will wonder "should he just be painted as a villain or a mixed-bag 'because of his successes in foreign policy'."

On the downside, Duncan said Teddy Roosevelt's lustre seems to be tarnishing with age. "He was once considered a 'great' president. Now he's nearer the 'near great' category."

Nothing in the American experience, however, has approached the recent Soviet debunking of Stalin as a wartime god and the exposure of mafia-like wheeling and dealing in the ruling politburo. It has proved puzzling and unsettling to many Soviets.

The facts of Stalin's madness and Brezhnev's stagnation continue to stagger our hearts and trouble our minds," said historian and Academy of Science member Yuri Polyakov.

Slander
"My generation can accept this and understand this, but my parents and my wife's parents just do not understand," a Moscow University student said.

"They believed in this past. Now they find it disturbing because what they believed to be true, what they were told was true, is a lie."

"They don't like it. They are being told the leaders they followed without question through the war was crazy. Everywhere you look you find that someone else is not what our history books say he was."

Many revisionist portrayals of history now in vogue were once denounced as Western slander

campaigns and lies meant to belittle the achievements of communism and the Soviet state.

Admitting that these Western "slander campaigns" had some grounding in fact calls into question the accuracy of all Soviet history.

"One of the long-term problems is going to be repairing this credibility gap," said one Western diplomat. "People are wondering if a true history is going to emerge or just another falsified version to snit the present policy and leadership."

"They have changed some things so often it may be difficult to actually know which version is the true version."

Gorbachev has led the charge for a rewrite of Soviet history, claiming a clear view of the past and its mistakes is necessary if those errors are to be avoided in the future.

"Many thousands of people inside and outside the party were subjected to wholesale repressive measures," Gorbachev said at last November's 70th anniversary celebrations of the Communist Revolution. "This is the bitter truth."

Repression
"The guilt of Stalin and his immediate entourage before the party and the people for the wholesale repression and acts of lawlessness is enormous and unforgivable," Gorbachev said. "This is a lesson for all generations."

He then announced a commission to rewrite the history of the Soviet period, a signal that all of Soviet history should be open for review.



Three of Hillbrow's homeless street urchins wash their clothes in a 48-year-old prefabricated wooden shed which is now their home. (Reuters wirephoto)

Johannesburg's black street children find a new home

By Brendan Boyle

JOHANNESBURG, (Reuters): Christopher Nkosi dreams of being a bus driver. Eighteen months ago, when his home was a cardboard box on a piece of urban wasteland, he dreamed only of surviving.

He was nine when he fled a miserable home in the black township of Soweto for the streets of Hillbrow, Johannesburg's inner-city suburb, where the crime rate is the highest in South Africa.

He begged, stole and fought to survive for more than six months. Survival meant protecting his scraps of food from children twice as old and twice as big and dodging the police.

All that changed when Christopher, now 11, became what he calls "a Twilight Child."

Home is now a 40-year-old prefabricated wooden shed on the ringes of Hillbrow, with regular meals, a foam mat on the floor and rudimentary schooling. Christopher even has a change of clothes.

"When I get big I am going to drive a bus. A double-decker. I am a strong boy and I am clever, too," he said.

The penalty for breaking the

Twilight Children, a four-year-old volunteer group of blacks and whites trying to salvage Hillbrow's street children, has recruited 62 homeless urchins to its shelter.

"These kids didn't trust anybody when we started. It took a long time just to get them to talk to us," says Greg Jacobsen, a hotel manager and volunteer worker for Twilight Children.

"Now the emphasis has changed. We have 62 kids living in the shelter on a permanent basis with more than that coming and going. We give them an education, a sense of belonging and, we hope, a future," he said.

Penalty

Johannes Sepe, one of four full-time black child care workers, talks with pride about the progress some children have made. Others he cannot reach.

"There are children out there that we just cannot get to. They are too wild, too far gone to make even the small adjustment required by our rules," he said.

Those rules, prominently displayed in the bare hall of the shelter, forbid huddling, stealing, glue-sniffing and gambling.

Rule No. 8 says: "Children must wash themselves clean."

The penalty for breaking the

rules is expulsion from the shelter for anything from a day for petty theft to four weeks for serious vandalism or assault.

"The boys take pride in the rules and in making sure they are obeyed by the newcomers," said Sepe. "They are very proud of being Twilight Children. It is their identity now."

Nicholas Mabangu, a precocious 12-year-old, wants to work for the Twilight Children when he grows up.

"I like it here a lot. I ran away when I was 10 because my sister hit me all the time. I have no father. Only my mother, but I don't know where (she) is working..." he said.

Other children tell similar stories of escaping abuse, drunkenness and prostitution. In Hillbrow, life became an hourly battle for survival, but it was better.

"These children are life's victims just as there are abused and neglected children everywhere in the world," said David Tredeu, a social worker who counsels the children.

"The difference here is that while there are channels and facilities for white children that will see them safely taken care of in 24 hours, there is nothing for the black children."

Democracy makes progress in South Korea

Purged journalists to launch major newspaper

By Takashi Oka

SEOUL: In a gleaming glass-walled building not far from the sweeping tiled roofs of 15th-century Changdok Palace, a group of optimistic journalists is preparing to launch South Korea's first major independent newspaper, Hangyoreh Shinmun (One Nation).

Editor in chief Song Kum Ho, managing editor Imm Jae Kyong, and half of the 60 men on the staff belong to an elite brotherhood: They were expelled by government fiat from their media jobs — in 1980, during the first year of the outgoing Chun Doo Hwan government, or by the Park Chung Hee regime that preceded it.

It is a measure of the progress South Korea has made towards democracy that Song, Imm, and their friends can think openly of publishing a newspaper like Hangyoreh.

"We will be independent. Not neutral, but independent," said Song in his airy fifth-floor corner office. By "independent," Song said, he meant free of government control and of control by wealthy owner-proprietors, as is the case with all of the country's existing national newspapers.

A small, neat, gray-haired man of precise speech and intense look, Song is one of South Korea's most respected anti-establishment journalists. So is managing editor Imm. Song was purged in 1975; Imm in 1980. Both express continuing disatis-

faction with the state of press freedoms in South Korea.

"Political control is less blatant than it used to be," said Imm. "And the emphasis is laid on stiff financial conditions rather than on outright censorship. For instance, in order to be licensed by the authorities, a newspaper must have a rotary press printing at least 20,000 copies per day."

Still, Hangyoreh is well on its way to achieving an initial funding of 5 billion won (nearly \$1.3 million) by public contributions. So far, Imm said, more than 12,000 people have contributed an average of 200,000 won each.

As of the end of January, Imm said, 2.9 billion won had been raised, and the newspaper hopes to have enough funds in hand by

the end of February to buy a secondhand rotary press and to start printing late the following month.

Many of the contributors are Christians, Imm said. Some of the Christian churches, Protestant and Roman Catholic, were in the forefront of the movement for direct presidential elections last spring and summer.

With the election and inauguration of Roh Tae Woo as president, many members of this community, as well as academics and intellectuals in general, feel the need to keep strict watch on the words and actions of the incoming government.

"This is an absolutely secular newspaper," said Imm, "but Hangyoreh and the Christian

community share a common goal: democracy and human rights."

The paper has been flooded with applications for work, even though the salaries are far smaller than what established papers pay. A recent advertisement for 20 trainee reporters drew 1,700 responses.

In 1975, Song was editor of Dong A Ilbo, South Korea's leading liberal newspaper. Song championed his newspaper's independence from government dictation, especially by the Korean CIA (now known as the NSP or National Security Planning Agency).

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

Terzi is the first, might be the last PLO envoy in UN

By Michael Littlejohns

UNITED NATIONS, (Reuters): The United States considers him an embodiment of "terrorism" even though a former American delegate likened him to Santa Claus, yet Zehdi Labih Terzi is known here as mild-mannered, hardworking diplomat.

Ambassador Terzi, as he is known to those who regard the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a quasi-state, is its first and only permanent observer here.

If the United States has its way, he will be last.

Invoking the 1987 Anti-Terrorism Act, US Attorney General Edwin Meese has served notice that the PLO mission in New York must close by next Monday.

The United States said its action was "irrespective of any obligations" undertaken in the 1947 agreement that established UN headquarters in New York.

Terzi, 64, told reporters that US authorities would have to lock him up before they could "take me away."

He cancelled plans to be in Geneva when the deadline falls.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has called the American action a clear violation of the headquarters accord and protested strongly. The General Assembly referred the dispute to the World Court. Hearings will begin next month.

In the meantime, there may be another emergency session of the General Assembly on the matter, which goes far beyond the immediate argument whether the PLO may retain its mission.

Diplomats say that UN independence is at issue and that if the dispute is not resolved they must consider seriously whether the General Assembly can continue meeting in New York.

Andrew Young, President Jimmy Carter's UN Ambassador spoke of "this mild little guy who looks like Santa Claus" in excusing his unauthorised, clandestine meeting with Terzi in the summer of 1979 that led to Young's resignation.

Israeli diplomats learned of the encounter and denounced Young. Earlier this month, Israel

cast the only vote against a General Assembly resolution that called on the United States to rescind plans to close the PLO mission.

Only Israel and the United States regard the PLO as terrorist. British officials say their government faults the organisation for harbouring terrorist elements.

"But there are some of those in the Israeli government, too," a Briton here remarked.

A "bustling man who favours conservative, dark suits," Terzi would be an unlikely choice by central casting for a role as terrorist.

He has been a part of the diplomatic community here since he arrived with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, when he addressed the General Assembly in November 1974. Arafat left after 24 hours. Terzi stayed.

After the United Nations invited the PLO to set up an observer mission, Terzi negotiated the \$1 million purchase of a Manhattan townhouse for offices and an official residence. The townhouse is now valued at \$4.5 million, Terzi said.

The PLO pays about \$2,000 a month in real estate taxes, he said, because US authorities accord him no diplomatic immunity. He drives an old Chevrolet, with regular licence plates — no diplomatic privilege there, either.

Re-entry

Terzi travels with a diplomatic passport issued by the Algerian government, but must stand in line, sometimes for an hour or more, at New York's International Airport with tourists and returning students to obtain re-entry.

His visa does not permit multiple visits and it often took a week or two to get permission to return to New York, he said.

Asked if he anticipated extra hassles in light of the Anti-Terrorism Act, Terzi said the situation could hardly be more aggravating than it is.

While the PLO's problem is with Federal authorities, his life is not easy in a city that has a huge Jewish population and a Jewish mayor.

Mayor Edward Knch has called the United Nations "a ces-



Zehdi Labih Terzi

spool" and this past weekend, protesters carrying the Israeli flag gathered outside the PLO mission singing Jewish songs and chanting "PLO, they have to go."

Terzi is a member of the Greek Orthodox Church, and said he used to attend its Brooklyn cathedral regularly until his wife, Wadid, died last year after an 11-year battle with cancer. He has two children.

Terzi was the PLO representative in Spain and several Latin American countries before coming here. His Spanish is fluent. In the United Nations, where Arabic is an official language, he prefers to use his lightly accented English, explaining that he can state his case better without interpretation, English being the common UN language.

Asked how he likes New York, he replied diplomatically: "Very interesting with a variety of entertainment, culture, brigandage and muggings."

Final Tuesday lies ahead

WASHINGTON, (AP): With Super Tuesday behind them, the presidential candidates are looking toward the next big Tuesday on the calendar — June 7, when the California and New Jersey primaries offer the last big bloc of delegates to be allocated before the national conventions.

There are other big primaries in coming months, including Illinois, Pennsylvania and New York. But none offers a larger one-day delegate total than Final Tuesday, as it's been dubbed.

The Western states of Montana and New Mexico, with small populations, also will hold primaries June 7.

For Democrats, with Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, Jesse Jackson and Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore hunched in the lead, the late primary races on opposite sides of the country now loom as potentially decisive.

On the republican side, where a big Super Tuesday victory last week made Vice President George Bush his party's likely choice, the June 7 primaries are expected to be much less crucial.

After the Super Tuesday contests throughout the south, both Dukakis and Gore announced they would soon make campaign stops in New Jersey and California, Jackson, too, is building organisations in both states.

Let's hear it for mothers ... and wives

By Kathy Cuddihy

MOST of us, most of the time, take the gift of our five senses for granted. Many of us don't even exercise our senses to their full advantage. One segment of the population, though, seems to make exceptional use of what they have. Needless to say, I refer to mothers.

Everyone knows that mothers come equipped with eyes at the back of the head, that they have an uncanny flair for tasting the secret powers in foods that wouldn't normally pass muster with finicky children.

Less talked about, however, is as a mother's amazing sense of hearing. I stress the word "mothers" because although women in general are renowned for their proficiency at hearing things they're not meant to hear, it is the act of giving birth which actually triggers a higher level of audio abilities.

Consider, for example, the perception involved in being able to identify her own child's cry at a distance of two blocks ... when there are numerous other possible culprits. Or the equally amazing talent of distinguishing cries of distress. Other adults hear only interminable wailing. Mothers hear subtle differences in pitch and can label the whinges as fatigue, hunger, irritability, injury, illness, or just plain attention seeking. Such talent inevitably spawns a few observers who can scarcely believe the accuracy of these intuitive interpretations, until appropriate motherly ministrations soon convince them.

A mother's ability to hear silence is something which particularly unnerves childless adults. Most of us don't particularly mind silence, but mothers can hear it. Consider this:



negative occurrence. Mothers, however, can distinguish between blissful silence and ominous silence. "It's too quiet all of a sudden. Something is very wrong." Has the woman gone twichy, or does she hear something which hasn't happened yet? Usually it's the latter.

One of the most useful aspects of maternal perception is an effect which I term "psychic" hearing. This allows mothers to hear teeth not being brushed or hands not being washed. It also permits them to decipher the rude comments uttered under an angry child's breath, or to hear what the child's real plans are, not just the version for parental consumption.

As advanced as these techniques seem, alas they fall short of perfection. Progress still needs to be made when it comes to hearing the other side of telephone conversations.

between children and certain of their frequent callers. The range also needs to be improved somewhat to enhance listening to schemes discussed when mothers are at home where they should be and children are somewhere they definitely shouldn't be.

Of course, anyone knows that while the acute hearing of mothers can discern a lie at 50 paces, it can also reverse itself into a more selective mode, especially where requests for car keys and advances on allowances are concerned.

Apart from the obvious differences between hyper-hearing and selective hearing, is the fact that the former is an inherited characteristic while the latter is a learned ability. Learned from whom? From husbands, of course.

My own experience and the results of a large survey of friends and acquaintances indicate that

husbands are masters at the game of selective hearing. They begin practising the technique as little boys. The symptoms abate somewhat during courtship, but once those marriage vows are taken, bang! perfection of the art.

Don't you recognise the familiarity of the following exchange?

"Why doesn't anyone tell me anything around here?"
"They do tell you, you just don't listen. We've discussed this current piece of news in detail once and I've reminded you three times in the past week, the most recent of which was this morning as you flew out the door and snapped, 'I know, I know. Will you stop nagging me, woman?'"

Or, "What do you mean get showered and changed? Where are we going?"
"Out to dinner, of course."

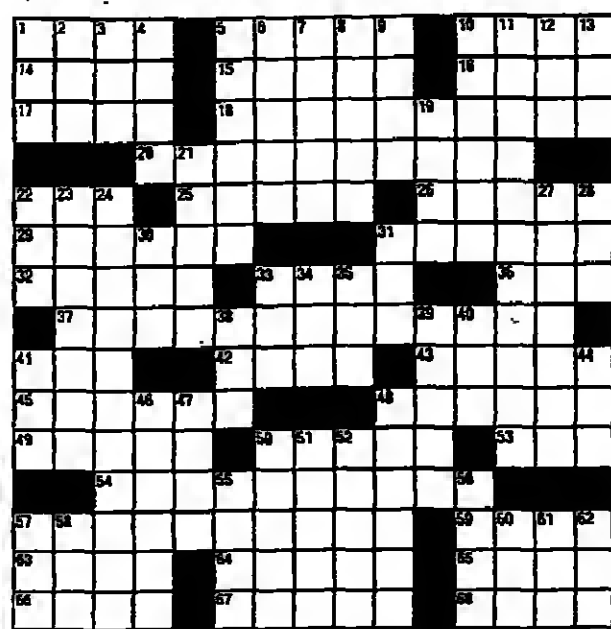
"I really think I should be consulted on these matters."

"Consulted? You were the one who gushed an acceptance when that brassy blond extended the invitation. You didn't consider it worthwhile to listen to my suggestion that you might regret your impulsive reaction."

A husband's hearing becomes particularly selective when it comes to requests to do odd jobs around the house, or run errands, or ... I could go on indefinitely.

No doubt there are some radical solutions to the problems of selective hearing, but would anyone want to listen? After all, any wife or mother worth her salt can turn the selective hearing of others to her own advantage: "I know you said we had to start saving. That's why I took advantage of the sale and bought this beautiful mink coat. You'll be astonished at how much we've saved." Do you hear what I'm saying?

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Forest creature
 - Small armadillo
 - Anglo-Saxon toiler
 - Suit to —
 - Blundered
 - Catchall abbr.
 - Lisa
 - Circle dances
 - Type of tournament
 - Curtailment, for short
 - Lofty
 - Aconcagua's range
 - Land of chateaux
 - Involve
 - Beverage for a cold day
 - Excited
 - Mill unit
 - Country fair features
 - Photo
 - Roof part
 - Singer Ponsella and namesakes
 - Western dwellings
 - Writer de Beauvoir
 - Bump, in Calais
 - Publish
 - HST's predecessor
 - Furniture for King Arthur
 - Wrong-number getters
 - Stretch of low land
 - Words in a palindroma
 - Conductor Koussevitzky
 - Concept
 - Pull down
 - Beauty or brains or money, a.g.
 - Father of Goneril
 - Hoover or San Luis
 - Ike's command
 - Poetic time
 - Admiral's rank
 - Wig
 - Sarcasm
 - Polished
 - Patriot Patrick
 - anything you desire... (song)
 - Specialized fishing
 - excellence
 - Word of negation
 - Urban RRs
 - Israeli diplomat
 - Abba
 - Hammerstein or Levant
 - Ground-to-air sys.
 - Trite saying
 - Pimlico and Churchill Downs
 - bacon
 - Tea service
 - Part of Scand.
 - Conceit
 - Mideastern title
 - Elected state off.
 - Copenhagen coin
 - Favorable response
 - Milton's "Ragout of the Sun"
 - de plume
 - Intersection
 - Sun. talk
 - Daredevil Steve
 - Little case
 - Mathematical term
 - Runs a motor in place
 - Young and old endings
 - Noncom
 - Space agcy.
 - Wicked
 - Debus's sea
 - Tax shelter, for short
 - Hoosier humorist George
 - Meadow
 - Part of a pitcher

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
CAUGHT IN THE CRUSH

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 9 7
♥ Q 10 5
♦ 8 7 4
♣ 6 4 3 2

WEST
♠ K 6 5 3
♥ 9 8 6
♦ Q 10 2
♣ 8 7 5

EAST
♠ 2
♥ 7 4 3 2
♦ J 9 6 5 3
♣ Q J 10

SOUTH
♠ Q J 10 8 4
♥ A K J
♦ A K
♣ A K 9

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠
Between the two of us, we've been playing bridge for nigh on 100 years. In all that time, we've never come across a smoother play, although many of our contemporaries swear they've seen the position crop up at the table. This, in theory, is the situation we're referring to.

After the artificial two-club opening bid and the semi-negative two-diamond response, the auction proceeded normally. North's raise to three spades promised some values, and South's jump over game inquired about his partner's trump holding. Holding a top trump honor, North did his duty by continuing on to slam.

After winning the opening lead in hand with the king, the fate of the contract appears to hinge on the trump finesse, since a club loser is inevitable. However, when East shows out on the second trump, declarer needs a minor miracle to land his slam.

Declarer cashes all his winners and uses the queen of hearts as a dummy entry to ruff a diamond. He then exits with his club loser, which East must win. This is the position:

♠ A —
♥ —
♦ —
♣ 6

♠ 10 8
♥ —
♦ —
♣ —

East must lead a red card, and declarer ruffs. Whether West ruffs low or overruffs, he cannot score a trump trick. Try it.

(This column is by way of an apology. When we ran it last year, we had an incorrect layout and the slam could have been defeated.)



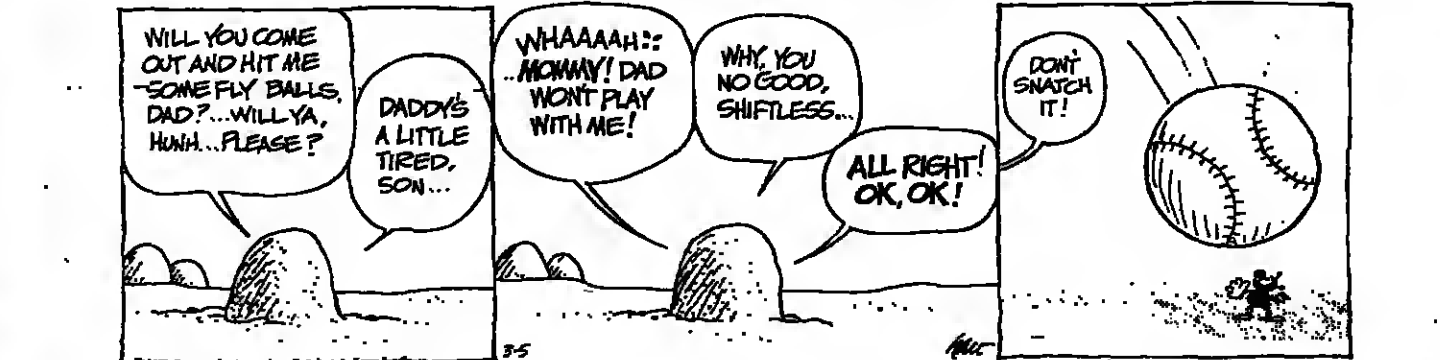
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</p> <p>Your prospects are much improved, but you will still have to work hard. You should do more to stay on good terms with your partner. Make sure you are adequately dressed for the weather.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>You should stick to what is strictly practical. If you want to learn a new skill you must practice regularly. You should not make too much fuss. Be generous.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>You should keep your wits very much about you. You are rather liable to lose your way so consult a map if at all in doubt. Do not do anything that you know you would be ashamed of. Be selective.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)</p> <p>You will have a good opportunity and you must act swiftly if you do not want to waste it. You should not trust to luck just now, instead make the best possible use of your skill and experience. Make a few concessions. Be less haughty.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>You will be able to do something more positive. You must resist a temptation to eat a multitude of sweet things. You should not allow yourself to be intimidated by what seem to be formidable odds.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)</p> <p>There is room for a little more optimism. Your personal appeal will be at its highest. You should not take on any more commitments just now. Be resolute.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>You will have to use a little more commonsense. Do all you can to maintain harmony with your partner. You will have to beware of neglecting a small infection. Be responsive.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>You will be able to have a good laugh at yourself. Make sure you do not run out of patience. Take good note of other people's opinion. Be steadfast.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>You will be able to do better than expected. Make sure some essential repairs are not neglected. You will have to keep your wits about you. Be tolerant.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)</p> <p>Do not just let things happen to you. You will be able to learn the lesson of experience. Make sure you do not neglect a cold. Be more resilient.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>You will be able to do your best and you will enjoy doing it. You should be prepared to make a few changes. Do not expect to get your own way in all things. Be reasonable.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)</p> <p>You will be able to make the best of things. You should not drive too long or far without a break. You must beware of permitting yourself to be outwitted. Be sensible.</p>



Some of the clothes shown by Italian designers at the recent Milan fashion shows, left to right, Krizia, Emporio Armani, and Sybilla.

Revitalised classics at Milan show

By Leonora Dodsworth

MILAN, Italy (AP): Italy's big-league stylists said recently that five days of presentations of deluxe ready-to-wear for next fall and winter went better than expected at the Milan fashion showings.

Strong trends such as the new, smaller silhouette and a revival of pants for wear round-the-clock caught the interest of the fashion traders in Milan. Revitalised classics coupled with the high quality Italian fabrics and workmanship contributed to the success.

Fear of the low buying power of the dollar had caused the Italians to step carefully. The result was a simplified silhouette with plenty of commercially valid, wearable clothes.

Rigid cost control and the use of less opulent materials by some fashion companies kept price tags with reasonable

limits. Fashion houses reported price increases of never more than 10 per cent above last year's prices.

Jitters regarding competition from avant-garde foreign designers, the French in particular, also showed signs of subsiding as orders rolled in.

"The Italians are expert in making the sort of smartly tailored sportswear that Americans like," said an executive of a US glossy fashion magazine.

The general good health of Italian fashion houses is demonstrated by their continuous expansion into profitable market sectors outside their ready-to-wear lines. Perfumes, furs, eyeglasses, footwear, pens and watches are just some of the sidelines that stylists sign to promote their name and make more money.

Perhaps the most successful part of the Milan shows was the

renewed interest in pants.

"Pants are what it's all about," said Kai Ruttenstein, senior vice president-fashion director at Bloomingdale's.

Sal Ruggiero, fashion director at Marshall Field and company of Chicago, called them "a great option" bridging the gap until skirt lengths settle down once more.

Armani, Mario Valentino and Krizia showed them in easy-fitting versions. Ferre, Versace and Genny preferred a tight-legged look.

Pants frequently were cut high, thereby emphasising the waist. Wasp-waists are a characteristic of the newly-refined, more genteel mood that is sweeping aside the aggressive-type glamour.

coat modeled on riding jacket lines, flaring out from a fitted top.

Armani showed a winner in glen plaid and then repeated it in velvet for a formal evening. Chalk-stripe gray flannel was the fabric choice used by other designers for this shape.

On the same refined wavelength are the Dickensian-style frock coats shown by Romeo Gigli, one of Italy's youngest designers in the top slot. He continues to use his favourite knit fabrics for styles that fit as tight as a second skin, a habit copied by many of his colleagues.

Lots of boots, clinging tight as stockings, came in flat or high-heeled versions and heralded a return of the footwear after several seasons.

Fake furs were another revival. Fendi, Byblos and Armani for Emporio produced some of the most beautiful.

MEDICINE

New frontiers in medical research

Space biomedicine: a cure for earthly ills

Scientists studying the effects on how man and other life forms learn to cope with the weightlessness of space are turning out a mass of research results, that are giving doctors profound new insights into how the human body works.

By Keith Hindley

ELDERLY ladies with wasting bones, businessmen under stress and AIDS victims are all likely to benefit from long-term space flights such as the 326-day marathon completed last December by cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko.

Space biomedicine, the study of how man and other life forms learn to cope with the weightlessness of space, is turning out a mass of research results that are giving doctors profound new insights into how the human body works.

Drugs to limit the wasting of bone mass which all cosmonauts experience in space are already being prescribed for women suffering from osteoporosis, an increased brittleness of bones associated with a decrease in calcium. Cosmonauts suffer, too, from a depression of their immune system, the body's defence against bacteria and viruses. Techniques being developed to limit or eliminate this effect will have applications in a number of diseases, especially AIDS.

The Russians look at space medicine as an extension of their work on other groups such as submariners and explorers. At the Institute for Biomedical Problems, the Soviet centre for space medicine in Moscow, more than 1,000 scientists have amassed a vast amount of data

on both human and animal reactions during long space flights, which may also contribute to our understanding of the mental and physical effects of everyday stress.

In space, crew members live in such close quarters that personal disagreements could be disastrous. So the crews practice conflict reduction and stress limitation, just as any good businessman should. Although there is a formal pecking order in seniority within each two or three man team, the leader tries to avoid issuing orders. Those directly involved in a decision discuss it and agree a course of action.

Discovered
The Russians discovered some time ago that the degree of stress a cosmonaut is feeling can be accurately gauged from changes in how he or she pronounces certain vowels. Undoubtedly Romanenko's reported "space row" with ground control before landing will have been carefully recorded for closer analysis. The Russians expect soon to be using the cosmonauts' radio conversations as an instant stress level monitor.

It is the absence of physical stress in orbit which is providing valuable insights into methods of combating bone loss caused by calcium deficiency. In orbit, leg bones and the muscles involved in maintaining posture find themselves underused. Cosmonauts do not stand

at all; they float in a suitable position or tie themselves to equipment they wish to operate.

As a result, bones begin to lose calcium and muscles to atrophy. The Russian solution is to exercise. At ground level, research has shown that healthy bones, heart and lungs can be maintained at a high level with as little as three 20-minute exercise sessions each week. In orbit cosmonauts must exercise for two hours each day, either running tied down with elastic to a treadmill or working on a zero gravity exercise machine.

But because so many cosmonauts and astronauts find their exercise programmes tedious, American doctors are working on a drug treatment that will slow or halt the wasting effects. The same treatment can be applied to those subject to osteoporosis — mainly post-menopausal women — with some success.

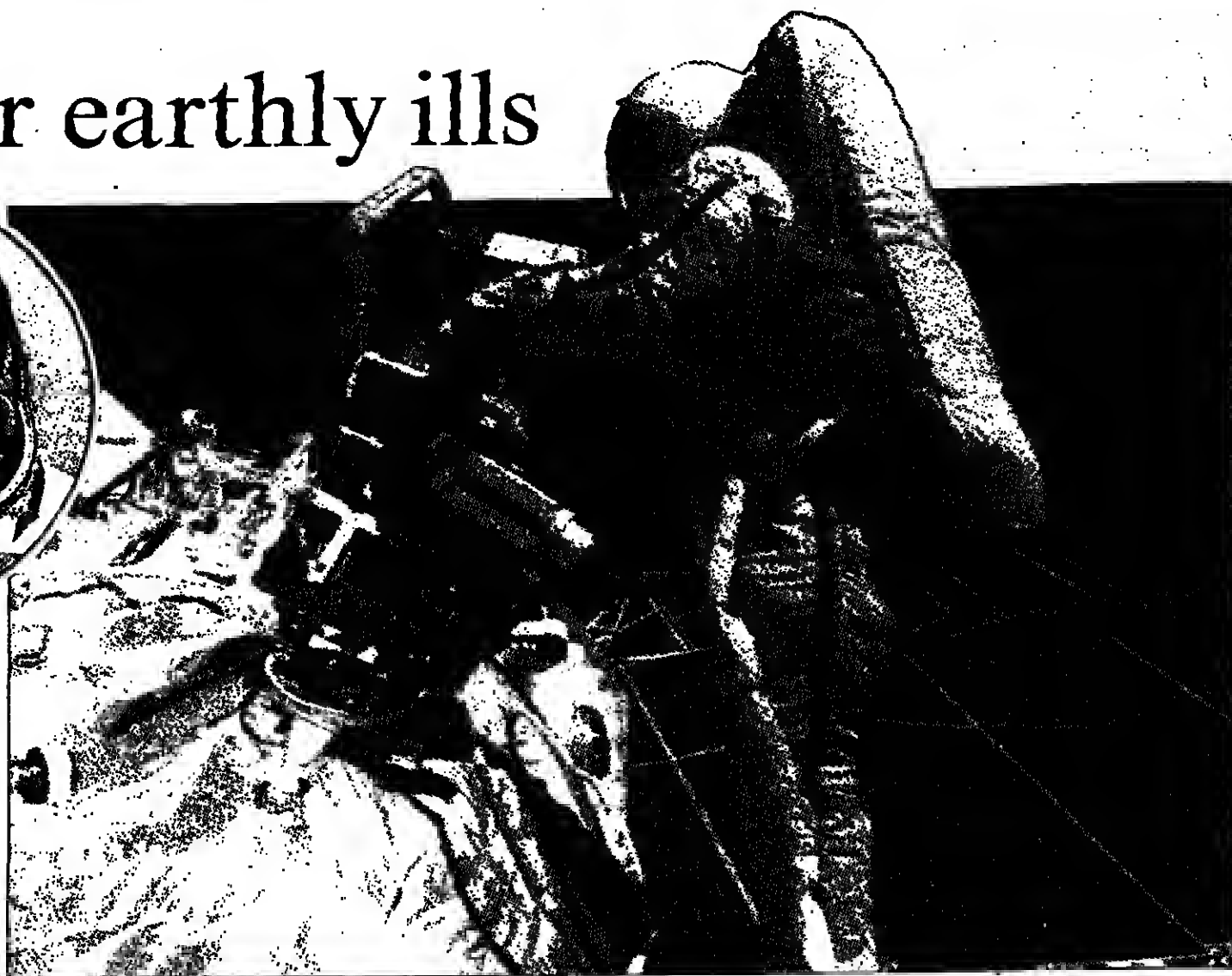
Psychosomatic symptoms are common. Several cosmonauts have worried about getting toothache; Romanenko suffered two bouts, probably psychosomatic, during one of which he and a colleague almost came to blows after a disagreement.

Depression
Doctors are currently trying to pin down the real cause of the depression of the immune system in space flight. "It may be that living in a pretty sterile, closed environment is not challenging the immune system with a barrage of new threats, and so the system powers down," says Dr Juliet Lee, a British researching space biomedicine at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. "Alternatively, it could be the sheer stresses of living in a closed environment. Or it may be entirely caused by the con-



sequences of weightlessness." Research in this area will almost certainly lead to methods of beefing up a depressed immune system that could well have applications in many diseases, especially AIDS. Dr Lee would like to continue her work in Britain from next summer, but the current lack of research funds here now makes that unlikely.

Cosmonauts become more prone to what are normally curable problems such as fungal infections, inflammation of the gums and the common cold. At the same time, microbiologists have found that many bacteria and organisms thrive in space and multiply up to four times faster. The space medicine programme calls for cosmonauts to use portable medical equipment on each other to gather data. This has produced a whole series of compact items of medical equipment such as electrocardiographs which are now being mass-produced. It means that Russian doctors can take complex equipment to a seriously ill patient instead of risking a move to the local hospital.



Cosmonauts are providing information which can be useful to scientists studying osteoporosis.

Radiation is a major Soviet concern. Once space flight moves beyond the Earth's magnetic field cosmonauts will be exposed to sudden showers of radiation from a solar or cosmic ray storm. Men could be fatally irradiated in a matter of minutes.

The Russians have already developed drug treatments that reduce the damage after an irradiation episode by a factor of one third. These treatments were used on some of the victims of the Chernobyl disaster.

Foetal tissue being uniquely sensitive to radiation damage, doctors are having to restrain their curiosity to see how the human reproduction system will respond to weightlessness. The general feeling is that zero gravity will make both the carriage and birth of children much easier, free of the back strain and clumsiness that gravity generates. Russia has orbited two women, America five, and space shuttle astronauts such as Kathy Sullivan have won many plaudits.

In the long term, man will move into space permanently. Generations will be born in space, and that will bring about massive evolutionary changes — Dr Oleg Gazenko, the head of the Institute for Biomedical Problems, believes, for example, that a genetic drive will reduce the size of useless legs.

Suffer
But it seems that space explorers will still suffer one unpleasant side effect: travel sickness. Space sickness affects

about half of astronauts or cosmonauts within a few hours of reaching orbit. It lasts for about three days and can be unpleasant enough to prevent any kind of productive work. It is more of a problem to the American space programme, where space shuttle flights last only a week or two; American doctors are busy looking for a one-pill cure.

The rapid way in which the human body learns to cope with weightlessness has been a surprise.

Breast cancer in US reaches all-time high

THE incidence of breast cancer in the United States reached an all time high in 1985, the latest year for which figures were available, according to a report compiled by the National Cancer Institute early this year.

The report which covers the period from 1950 to 1985 says that a puzzling increase in deaths from breast cancer among young and middle aged white women continued, showing a sharp rise in 1984 and 1985, after a decline during the preceding years. Officials were unable to explain this trend.

The rate of new breast cancer rose by less than 1 per cent per annum from 1950 to 1975, came

down for a few years, and then in 1978 began rising at a fast rate, reaching the highest ever level in 1985.

Breast cancer is being diagnosed in about 130,000 women a year and about 40,000 women are dying from the disease annually. Breast cancer is responsible for more new cases of cancer and more deaths among women than any other type.

However the report shows a marked improvement in detection and treatment of cancer in the United States. The annual rate of new cancer cases among white Americans increased 36.5 per cent, while the annual rate of cancer deaths increased by

6.7 per cent because of better detection and treatment.

The percentage of cancer patients surviving five years after diagnosis jumped from 39 per cent at the start of the period to 50 per cent near the end of the period. If lung cancer, which is largely related to smoking, is removed from statistics, the cancer death rate will look improved.

The statistics show that the toll from all kinds of cancer has been rising since the middle of the century. With lung cancer included, there was a 9.1 per cent increase in cancer mortality from 1950 to 1985. With lung cancer excluded, there was

a 13.3 per cent decrease in cancer mortality during the same period.

There was, during this period, a sharp decrease in mortality among children under the age of 15 due entirely to the major advances in the treatment of childhood cancers of various kinds.

The incidence and mortality rates for stomach cancer has also slowed down in recent years. Testicular cancer now has a cure rate above 90 per cent. The shapeliest rise (51 per cent) was registered by bladder cancer, primarily a disease of the elderly caused mainly by smoking or occupational exposure.

To chew or not to chew: that's the question

By Trish Saywell

NEW DELHI, (UPI): Relaxing on his bicycle rickshaw, Ajay Qayyum spewed a torrent of scarlet betel nut juice into the street, narrowly missing a schoolboy and splattering a pair of white Brahmin cows.

Around him, sidewalks and doorways covered with betel juice testified to the national passion for chewing "pan," an addictive mixture of betel nut, tree bark, lime, and spices wrapped in a green betel tree leaf.

"I chew as many as 20 pan a day," the youth confided, wiping his crimson-stained lips with his sleeve.

Users of betel fiercely defend their habit as pleasurable and harmless. But health authorities have warned it can lead to mouth cancer and other problems.

Betel nut contains arecoline, which belongs to a family of "cholinergic" drugs that stimulate the saliva glands and the intestinal tract and dilate blood vessels.

"I get pseudo-psychological satisfaction from chewing betel because it helps my digestion," said Dr H H Siddiqui, a professor of pharmacology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Siddiqui acknowledged chewing betel nut with tobacco can cause serious health problems, permanently stain the teeth and produced dizziness and even blackouts. But, like millions of Indians, he is "dependent" on the substance and refuses to give it up.

"It gives a sensation of warmth and sometimes causes the face to flush, but it can also have extreme effects including a fall in the blood pressure and light-

headedness," Siddiqui said. "If you're not used to it, you could fall flat," he added. "I once offered some pan to medical colleagues at a picnic in Glasgow and two felt dizzy. A few said it was like cocaine and their tongues felt numb."

Health
Despite the associated health affects, Siddiqui does not believe betel chewing warrants any strictures. But many colleagues do.

"I think it should be banned," said Dr S K Kacker, a respected ear, nose and throat specialist. "It is habit-forming," he said. "I personally see two to three patients a day suffering from the ill effects of chewing betel nut and tobacco. The sharp edges of the betel nut cut the gums, creating ulcers in the oral cavity which can eventually lead to cancer."

"We have the highest rate of oral cancer in the world, largely a combination of betel nut, tobacco, poor dental hygiene, vitamin deficiencies and malnutrition," he added. Concerned by the trend, the Indian Dental Association recently urged state-run television and radio and the nation's newspapers to reject "Pan Masala" advertisements, and launched a campaign to educate people about its ill effects.

But the warnings have had little impact.

"I sell an average of 1,000 pan a day," bragged a traditional pan hawk outside New Delhi's trendiest ice cream parlour. "We don't compete with them" — he gestured at the ice cream people — "because people will chew betel even after they have ice cream."

The debate over the betel nut has sharpened since the



The use of 'pan' is embedded in the culture of the Asian subcontinent. An early engraving shows a group of women at leisure in the 'zenana' or women's quarters, with a box of pan.

introduction of advanced food processing techniques that have transformed the age-old preparation method and created a surge in its popularity.

Traditionally, hawkers found on virtually every curbside in India and known as 'panwallahs' combined varying amounts of nut, tobacco, lime, spices and honey in a betel leaf according to individual tastes. But in the late 1970s entrepreneurs began freeze-drying betel nuts and the accompanying ingredients and marketing them under the generic label of 'Pan Masala' in small foil packets and thus that allow users to chew at their convenience.

"There are now as many as 60 different brand names of 'Pan Masala' on the market in India," said Ashok Jain, who claims his company invented the packaging. "Business is very profitable," he laughed, tossing handfuls of

pan into his mouth. R N Goela of Swastik Fragrances said sales of his popular pan called 'Rajnigandha' — Hindi for a flower symbolising love — have doubled annually since he began production in 1983.

"The market is rising exponentially," he said. "The industry leader M M Kothari increased his sales turnover from 5 million rupees in 1980 to 400 million in 1987."

The craze has caught on with the millions of Indians living abroad.

India began exporting 'Pan Masala' in 1984-85, with \$1.2 million worth going to other parts of Asia, North Africa, the Middle East and Britain.

Exports jumped to \$2.3 million in 1985-1986 and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry estimated last year's total export value at more than \$7 million.

New research gives hope to stroke victims

MONTREAL, (UPI): When a blood vessel becomes clogged or bursts in the brain, it is not just the disruption of oxygen flow in blood to the brain that causes the damage.

Scientists are finding that strokes are not that simple.

At a recent international meeting of 1,100 experts on cerebral blood flow and metabolism, several researchers said that the chemical balance in the brain is also changed by a stroke, a finding that could lead to far more effective treatment for people who suffer one.

"As a rule of thumb, we could then reduce by 50 per cent the brain damage to stroke victims," said Dr. Eric Mackenzie, director of the Laboratoire de

Physiologie et Physiopathologie Cerebrovasculaire in Paris.

"It's a huge improvement," he said of the finding. "It's highly critical to be able to save brain tissue which is responsible for movement and speech. It's going to change the life of stroke victims."

Stroke is the third largest cause of death in the United States, killing more than 150,000 Americans every year. Blood clots are the most common cause of stroke, but some are also caused by a cerebral hemorrhage, when a weak vessel in the brain bursts.

At any one time, the American Heart Association estimates, there are 2 million people in the United States who have survived

a stroke and are living with its effects. Many may be paralysed on one side, be unable to speak, or suffer from other mental impairments.

Mackenzie, a Scot who directs the French lab part-time, said that until recently, doctors have believed that stroke victims suffered cerebral damage solely because of the reduced flow of blood to their brain. But new evidence suggests that brain damage in stroke victims is also caused by the excessive release within the brain of a neurotransmitter known as glutamate.

In a healthy person, the glutamate serves to stimulate nerve cells which allow the body to respond to messages from the brain. But researchers have dis-

covered that the glutamate turns toxic in a stroke victim and kills brain cells.

"We expect this to be a major area of clinical research," Mackenzie said. "The idea is to minimise the infarction (dead tissue) and to leave the maximum of healthy brain tissue."

Mackenzie said pharmacology researchers must now do clinical studies to try to come up with a drug to block the toxic glutamates from being absorbed by the receptor brain cells in stroke victims.

"The hope is that in the future, neurologists will be able to see stroke patients as early as possible — within a few hours of the first symptoms — and treat them effectively," he said.

FAMILY DOCTOR
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: I've been told my baby is in the breech position and I will have to have a Caesarean section when it is ready to be born. I've heard that too many Caesareans are performed in this country. Should I get another opinion and find a doctor who will deliver my baby vaginally? I've never had surgery before. Can you tell me if this is serious?

ANSWER: It would seem that you are anxious and worried, but maybe I can provide some information to help you. A Caesarean is considered major surgery, involving a series of separate incisions in the mother. The skin, the muscles underneath and abdomen must be opened. Then an opening must be made in the uterus for the baby to be removed. A breech is 5 pounds or larger, when the mother's pelvic dimensions are considered too small for vaginal passage, or if the baby is positioned with a hyperextended head, most doctors feel a Caesarean presents less of a risk than vaginal delivery. It may be wise for you discuss these factors with your physician. If your doctor has determined that your baby is indeed breech and one of the complicating factors is

BREECH-POSITIONED BABIES
OFTEN DELIVERED
BY CAESAREAN

present, chances are you will have to have the C-section.

Fortunately, modern medicine and its advances have made the Caesarean a generally "safe" procedure, and maternal deaths are very rare.

If it is decided that you must have the C-section, there are some other things to be discussed ahead of time. Find out what type of incision will be made.

In the past, (and sometimes still in the case of breech babies), a vertical incision was used often.

This is referred to as the classical operation, allowing a greater opening. This operation is used when foetal size or position is a problem and in some emergency situations.

Nowadays, however, a horizontal incision in the lower uterus is used most exclusively.

The procedure is called the low transverse cervical, and it has the lowest incidence of hemorrhage as well as the least chance of rupturing during a later pregnancy.

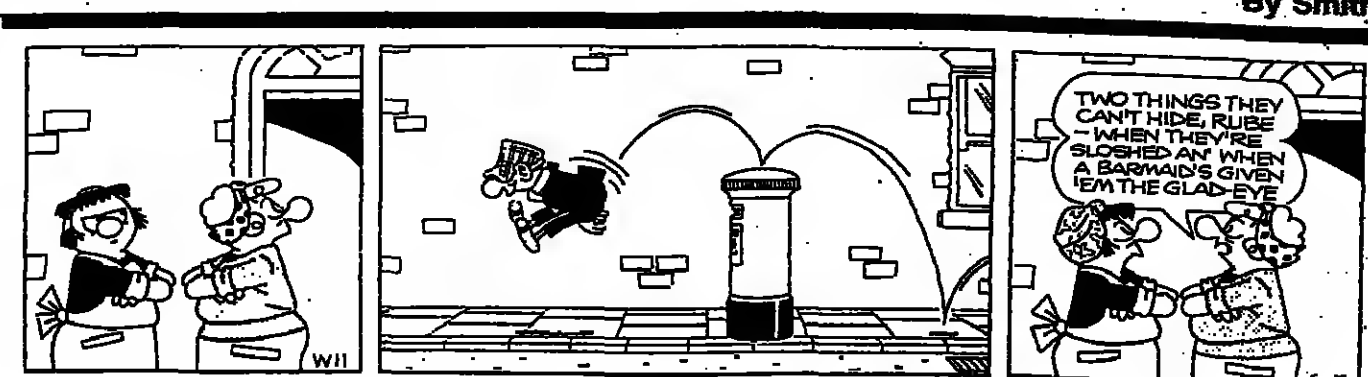
Don't be afraid to discuss all of this with your doctor. This is a very special time for you, and your anxiety is understandable.

The best medicine for this, however, is knowledge, and you have a right and responsibility to know all there is to know about your condition. It's the best way to make this period of preparation one that is fun and joyous.

ACROSS MY DESK: I had to read it twice to be sure it wasn't a joke, but according to Dr Howard Klein, plastic surgeon at the University of California, Davis, Medical Centre, leeches still have an important role to play in plastic surgery. There are times when a severed finger must be reattached, or a skin flap technique used to repair an area, when the surgeon can repair everything — arteries, tendons, nerves — except the veins. These vessels are just too small even for microsurgery, but when the leech attaches to the flap it draws the blood through the tissue until nature can restore the veins. According to this expert, in 100 per cent of the cases, if the leech attaches, the flap survives. When it doesn't the procedure does not take. The leech must know something that medicine has yet to learn.

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ANDY CAPP



By Smith

هناك ما لا يحصى

BUSINESS & FINANCE

US Senate conferees seek major trade compromise

WASHINGTON, March 15, (Reuters): US senators working on a compromise trade bill yesterday asked the House of Representatives to scrap a controversial amendment to punish unfair foreign traders and adopt a more flexible Senate version.

The Senate offer, to be sent to the House this week, would grant the president greater discretion in deciding whether the United States should retaliate against foreign trade practices perceived as unfair.

The Senate alternative would leave it up to the president to decide whether to retaliate against a foreign country even if an investigation found it was using unfair practices.

But it would intensify efforts to publicly identify countries seen to be consistently raising barriers to US-made goods and mandate that the US trade representative negotiate to remove all such practices within a fixed time.

Proposal

The Senate counterproposal comes as a presidential nomination bid by Representative Richard Gephardt, the Missouri Democrat who sponsored the tough mandatory-retaliation proposal known as the "Gephardt Amendment," who appeared to be foundering in his party's primary contests.

Polls showed Gephardt with less than five per cent support in Illinois primaries scheduled for today after he had a poor showing in 20-state presidential nomination contests held March 8, mostly in southern states.

The Gephardt amendment, approved by the House in a trade bill passed last year, would have compelled the president to retaliate against countries like Japan, Taiwan and South Korea that run chronic trade surpluses with the United States.

The White House has threatened to veto any trade bill that results from the House and Senate conference, if it contains protectionist language like the Gephardt amendment.

The Reagan administration contends the House proposal would induce foreign countries to retaliate and possibly choke off the current surge in exports of American-made products.

Arab oil producers urged to issue bonds

ABU DHABI, March 15, (Opecna): Arab oil producing countries have been urged to issue government bonds to deal with their budget deficits due to lower oil revenues.

Making the call here at the weekend, Dr Elias Saba, a former Lebanese Finance Minister, said that the bonds should be subscribed by the private sector in the local currency of those countries and designed to encourage investments while saving foreign exchange for import purposes.

Addressing a meeting of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said that the public sector had a major role to play in rectifying the economic situation in oil-producing countries.

Role

Describing their role as "pivotal" in the economic activities of those countries, he also underlined the importance of close coordination among the central banks, finance ministries and planning agencies.

While attributing lower oil revenues to the current downward trend in the economies of those countries, he said that other factors, including fluctuations in the values of major currencies, prices of raw materials and the continuing changes in interest rates, were also contributing to the situation.

Petrochemical products

LAGOS, Nigeria, March 15, (AP): Nigeria has begun exporting petrochemical products from two plants, a Lagos newspaper said today.

Britain has imported two thousand tons of benzene, a liquid solvent used in dyes, from plants in the northern city of Kaduna, the Lagos Guardian reported.

Nigerian President Gen Ibrahim Babangida was expected to officially commission the plants this week.

Gas pipelines proposed to link Arab states

BAGHDAD, March 15, (Reuters): Arab experts today proposed new pipelines snaking across the Middle East and North Africa to spread natural gas wealth more evenly, but they said political snags could prevent their construction.

Pipelines costing billions of dollars could funnel Algerian gas to Spain and Portugal via Morocco and separately to Libya. Others could link rich gas fields in Qatar and the UAE to Kuwait, Iraq, Syria and Jordan, they said.

Pipelines

"The Arab world's oil and gas wealth is distributed very unevenly," said Ahmed Messili of the Algerian state energy firm Sonatrach on the second day of an Arab energy conference.

Four states with only 18 per cent of the Arab population — Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and the UAE — own 90 per cent of Arab crude oil reserves.

Messili, director of gas marketing at

Sonatrach, said 80 per cent of Arab gas reserves are in four countries — Algeria, Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Gas pipelines make it cheaper to generate electricity. "Why should Morocco have to import refined oil products when there are huge quantities of gas next door?" Messili asked.

Existing pipelines that proved successful carry Iraqi gas to Kuwait, Algerian gas to Tunisia and Iraqi crude oil to an export terminal on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast.

Experts said the economics for more lines were favourable and the obstacles political. Morocco and Algeria are at odds over an Algerian-backed rebel movement fighting for independence in the western Sahara, which Morocco claims.

"Many projects are economically feasible, but unfortunately the political will is sometimes lacking," said Abdul Laif Zarrugh, director of technical affairs

at the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

The Algeria-to-Spain pipeline was first mooted years ago but Messili told Reuters studies were recently revived and have the backing of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

Improved political ties between Algeria, Libya and Tunisia prompted them last year to form a joint stock company to study construction of a gas line from Algeria to Libya via Tunisia.

Power

The cost, route and capacity were still being examined, Messili said. Algerian natural gas already generates 79 per cent of Tunisia's electric power through an existing pipeline.

Fahd Shurrah of the Qatar General Petroleum Corporation suggested a pipeline stretching 1,680 km (1,000 miles) from Qatar to Iraq via Kuwait at a cost of \$1.5 billion with a capacity of two billion cubic feet 170 million cubic

metres a day.

Kuwait has huge oil reserves but little gas, while Iraqi gas is not as plentiful as Qatar's.

An extended line could reach across Iraq to Syria and Jordan at a cost of \$2.5 billion with a capacity of 2.5 billion cubic feet (90 million cubic metres) a day.

Project

But officials said such a project was a non-starter as long as relations between Iraq and Syria remain cool. Syria shut down an Iraqi oil pipeline across its territory in 1982 after ties deteriorated and was not reprised at the Baghdad conference.

Zarrugh, however, said joint Arab energy projects helped lay the groundwork for political cooperation. "Through these projects political tensions will be reduced because the countries will be linked economically," he told Reuters.

Organisation enjoys the lowest production costs

Opec to play greater role in setting pace of oil price

BAGHDAD, March 15, (Opecna): Opec is destined to play a greater role in setting the pace of oil price developments because it enjoys the lowest production costs and possesses the bulk of the world's proven oil reserves.

According to a paper delivered on behalf of the Vienna-based organisation, today, at the fourth Arab energy conference by Dr Jaafar Mansour Saad, acting director of research at the Opec secretariat, the next two or three years should prove crucial in determining the position of Opec vis-a-vis the rest of the world.

He said the organisation would most likely adhere to its original policy guidelines as far as prices were concerned, namely, the achievement of a price level commensurate with its combined production capacity and reserves, the protection of the per barrel purchasing power of export revenues, and the use of

pricing and production as a means of bringing about a radical change in the structure of international economic relations.

The Opec official pointed out that as 1987 had shown, Opec was indeed determined to implement its fixed price policy which since the beginning of last year had been anchored to a reference price of \$18 a barrel.

Difficulties

The ultimate success and institutionalisation of this policy, with possible future price revisions, would depend — at least in the short run — on the extent to which all non-Opec producers were willing to cooperate with Opec in shouldering part of the burden of price defence and maintaining market stability, he noted.

Towards this end, he said, Opec had decided to reactivate contacts with other producers to ensure cooperation along concrete and unambiguous lines.

"It is not fair that the 13 developing countries of Opec should be expected to suffer increasing economic difficulties and financial losses simply to ensure higher revenues for fully developed and vastly richer oil producers."

He added that even among the developing oil exporting countries, the majority enjoyed higher living standards and per capita incomes than many Opec members.

Opec, he said, continued to be concerned about such factors as the instability of the dollar, the development of alternative sources of energy and the eroding effects of substitution and energy conservation. In addition, a more pressing problem had been added — the attitude of non-Opec producers.

Referring to the present situation in the oil market, the speaker pointed out that the other major actors in the oil market, such as oil companies, the United States

and the North Sea producers, were fully aware of the "catastrophic implications" of a price collapse and would reconsider their previous positions vis-a-vis oil prices and Opec.

Collapse

He argued that the 1986 price collapse was not the result of a price war as portrayed by the Western news media, but the logical outcome of difficulties largely beyond Opec's control and the "hypocritical insistence of the proponents of free market ideology that oil prices, supply and demand should be left to be determined by the so-called market forces."

He said a depletable asset like oil could not be priced on the basis of its cost of production and in the same manner as reproducible goods and services.

Notwithstanding the difficulties currently facing Opec, the achievements of the organisation over a relatively short period of

time underscored the ability of developing countries to act as a united group of secure full control over their valuable economic resources.

Their collective economic interests had been served through unity, although it was recognised that there was diversity among their political systems and they had divergent visions of economic development and strategies.

Saad said the success of Opec constituted "the most significant milestone towards true economic independence for developing countries as a whole."

He said it was only in this context that Opec policies on production and prices should be evaluated.

The speaker also reviewed the history of Opec, from its establishment here in September 1960 by Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela to its consolidation and growth over the years.

Japanese firm pushes ahead in neural computer research

TOKYO, March 15, (Reuters): Neural computers — machines that think and learn like brains — could be the next area where Japan borrows from, better and beats the West in the race to commercialise high technology.

Japan's biggest maker of mainframe computers Fujitsu started just a year ago by buying technology from the United States. Now, say company officials, Fujitsu has caught up, and plans to be first in applying neural circuitry to industrial needs.

No one has yet produced a neural computer, but Fujitsu is focusing first on robotic control, a relatively simple application and an area where conventional computers are handicapped.

Concept

"The concept was developed in the United States, and researchers there are looking quite far down the road. But we're trying to find applications at a simpler level," said Shigeru Sato, a director of the company's research subsidiary.

Conventional computers are fast, but stupid — they do only one thing at a time and only what they are told.

But neural computers can — in theory at least — learn, judge and infer at a basic level, which means they can interpret novel situations.

The computers are modelled after the brain, which through its network of inter-connected neurons and synapses is capable

of processing awesome quantities of data, performing many tasks simultaneously.

For instance, they could locate an object, decide what it is and what to do with it, researchers say.

Scott Kirkpatrick, a leader of neural computer research for arch-rival International Business Machines (IBM), said in a telephone interview from New York that he was impressed.

"Fujitsu's made great strides in robotics, so it seems like the natural strategy for them. I applaud them for clearly defining an application target and going after it," he said.

IBM's neural computer research projects, by contrast, tend to be theoretical, he said. One seeks to develop mathematical formulae that model neural thinking. The other is a study of animal visual processing, and attempt to glean insights useful to pattern recognition circuitry.

Simulations

IBM's research has had some concrete results, Kirkpatrick says. Computer simulations have shed light on the dynamics of human epileptic seizures, he said.

While Kirkpatrick praises Fujitsu's applied bent, he offers no excuses for IBM's theoretical bias.

In evolutionary terms, he said, today's neural computer simulations are "down around the slug level."

The next step is looking to see how nature reveals designs for microchips that can learn, recognise patterns and make inferences quickly, he said.

Fujitsu wants to use neural computers in robotics, but must still find marketable industrial applications, Sato said.

"We could commercialise neural computer robots within the century if we had a specific application," he said.

But finding a niche is not easy. Neural robots must compete with conventional robots, which are used mainly in low-cost manufacturing, he added.

Imaginations

To help find applications, Fujitsu plans to demonstrate the power of neural computers for clients in May. Robots simulating neural computers will get out a slapstick scene in which cop robots will chase robber robots.

"When we demonstrate it, we'd like to stimulate people's imaginations and get them to think about applications. Then they can work together with us to find realistic applications," Sato said.

Fujitsu's next step would be to design microchips for a neural computer, a goal it hopes to achieve in two to three years, he said.

Prototypes of such chips have already been developed in the United States, where dozens of companies are pursuing neural computer research.

Metal prices boom as supplies remain tight

LONDON, March 15, (Reuters): There are boom times on world markets now for metal producers — if they are not affected by the production problems that have helped sent prices soaring.

Prices of metals from aluminium to zinc have climbed to record levels.

That, said Ron Shorr, an analyst at Wall Street brokers Bear Stearns and Co., is "because of the growing recognition that if the economy remains good the metals will be big beneficiaries."

Manufacturers are scrambling to keep production lines humming so they can cope with unexpected strong consumer spending in the industrialised world — spending that is far larger than many economists had feared, after the crash of 87 last October. But there is a catch.

"Supplies may not be too plentiful," warns Shorr.

Zinc prices, for example, have climbed because of severe production cuts, London metals traders said.

The causes range from technical hitches at Canadian and Australian smelters to power and water shortages at Hindustan Zinc, in India, to guerrilla action in Peru.

Cadmium, a toxic metal used in batteries, pigments and in metal-plating, is affected since it is a byproduct of zinc.

But its price, which a year ago were less than a dollar a pound and now are more than \$9, has

also been boosted by a boom in sales of rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries.

Nickel prices have also been on the rise, hitting a record high of \$3.31 a pound in London last week, up from four dollars at the start of the year.

The world's biggest producer, Ontario-based Inco Ltd, said demand for nickel in the non-Communist world rose 10 per cent last year to nearly \$1.4 billion "driven primarily by record stainless steel production."

Expensive

But some producers say that prices are not yet strong enough to encourage them to reopen idled mines and smelters.

"It's a market fluctuation which does not necessarily bear any relation to the overall consumption of nickel," said Don Morley, finance and administration director of Western Mining Corp. Holdings Ltd, Australia's largest producer.

Before starting the expensive and lengthy job of reopening facilities, producers would need evidence high prices were going to last for some time, Morley said.

"I don't think producers necessarily believe it is going to stay high for a couple of years," he said.

Meanwhile, London traders expect higher prices for other metals used in making steel alloys, such as molybdenum and chrome.

Soviet oil exports to Europe climb

LONDON, March 15, (Kuna): Soviet oil exports to Europe have climbed above 100,000 barrels per day this winter, from around 70,000 bpd in recent months, according to a specialised publication here today.

Around 75,000 bpd are moving to North Europe from the Baltic and 32,000 bpd to the Mediterranean from the Black Sea, the New York-based Petroleum Intelligence Weekly (PIW), which is widely read here, reported.

It noted that the Soviet Union is Europe's largest petroleum product supplier.

PIW pointed out that Moscow was managing to find ready buyers for its oil despite the current mild weather in Europe.

In addition, the newsletter maintained that the Soviets are keen to deal directly with refiners and are selling spot cargoes to them instead of the traders.

World Business Summary

China boosts exports but still records a deficit

BEIJING, March 15, (Xinhua): China recorded a trade deficit of \$103 million over the first two months this year despite impressive gains in exports. Officials from the general customs administration told Xinhua today imports and exports totalled \$10,924 billion up 18 per cent over the same period last year. Exports were worth \$5.41 billion, 26 per cent more than the first two months last year, while imports grew by 11 per cent to \$5.513 billion.

In January the total trade was \$5,045 billion with exports exceeding imports by \$325 million. Analysts also attributed the unfavourable balance to increases in overseas donations, supplied materials for processing, and imported equipment and goods by foreign-funded enterprises as part of their investment. Excluding these items, exports over the two months totalled \$4,726 billion and exceeded the \$4,392 billion worth of imports, leaving a surplus of \$334 million. Export commodities which had earnings of more than \$20 million in February included aquatic products, grain, vegetables, canned food, coal, cotton, crude and refined oil, cotton yarn and cloth, polyester fibre, silk, carpets, mammal and machinery tools, garments and shoes.

In January tea was also on the list. Import commodities which cost the country more than \$20 million each included grain, sugar, natural rubber, timber, paper, pulp and paper mould, synthetic fibre, wool, iron ore, refined oil, fertiliser, steel products, copper and copper alloy, machinery, television tubes and automobiles.

Hong Kong topped China's 60 trade partners, with an import-export volume of \$3 billion.

Japan was in second place with a total trade of \$2.2 billion. Exports were up 34 per cent and imports down 10 per cent. China's third largest trade partner, the European Economic Community, did \$1.35 billion worth of business. The United States was in fourth place with trade of \$1.06 billion.

Bahrain's Alubaf more than doubles '87 loan provisions

BAHRAIN, March 15, (Reuters): Alubaf Arab International Bank reported today a strong rise in underlying earnings during 1987 but declared sharply lower net profit after more than doubling provisions against bad and doubtful debts. The Bahrain-based offshore bank, part of the Al Ubaf Banking Group, said profits before provisions rose 21.6 per cent of \$9.57 million, but net profit fell to \$573,000 from 3.87 million in 1986. Loan provisions were boosted by \$9.0 million after 4.0 million in 1986, taking total provisions since the bank was founded in 1982 to \$15.8 million.

General manager Patrick Mason told Reuters the extra provisions took cover to nearly six per cent of total loans.

That is below some of the bigger offshore banks in Bahrain where provisions are now around 20 per cent of Third World exposure, but Alubaf has concentrated on trade finance in the Arab world and has few loans outstanding to Latin America. "Because of its relative youth and its emphasis on short-term trade-related financings, the bank's exposure to countries with medium-term sovereign loan rescheduling problems has remained limited," Alubaf said in a statement.

"It was, however, felt necessary in 1987 to follow other international banks in making provisions against such exposure," the bank said. It omitted a dividend after paying a stock dividend of four per cent or \$2 million on 1986 accounts.

Alubaf said: "With many international banks opting to reduce their physical presence in Middle Eastern and North African markets, the bank found itself in a position to play the role of principal or lead manager in the structuring of an increasing number of Arab world trade-related deals." But the bank added in the light of the October stock crash and volatility of world financial markets, its 1988 budget had been drawn up with an emphasis on caution rather than growth.

Economy poised for growth

THE economy of Jordan is slowly emerging from the recession that hit the Middle East in the early 1980s, according to an industrial review of the country published recently by the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). Although last year's estimated 3.5 per cent increase in GDP — compared with 2.6 per cent in 1986 — signals economic growth, the rate is short of the five per cent target set for Jordan's third five-year plan (1986-90). Because of a steep rise in population growth, per capita income continued to fall between 1982 and 1987. With growing unemployment and a high level of external vulnerability, the Jordanian economy is marked by an on-going search for restructuring. The manufacturing sector's share in GDP increased from some eight per cent in 1974 to more than 11 per cent in 1984. Most small- and medium-sized firms are centred on textile manufacturing and metal products. The larger establishments, with state participation, are concentrated around chemicals, non-metallic minerals and petroleum refining. Together they accounted for 46.1 per cent of MVA in 1985, up from 30 per cent ten years earlier.

Jordan's industrial strategy has focused on increasing domestic processing of mineral extracts. This has resulted in the growth of large publicly funded capital-intensive projects and a relative neglect of small-scale enterprises. The current five-year plan emphasises rapid growth of the private manufacturing sector, backed up by a wide range of incentives to encourage its development. Although growth rates for manufacturing have remained high, industrial efficiency has remained low. The financial performance of smaller, less capital-intensive firms has been above that of the major enterprises.

Manufactured exports have increased rapidly in recent years to the point where they now constitute nearly 60 per cent of total export revenue. Natural resource-based industries are the most export-oriented branch. Export performance of the engineering branches remains weak, whereas that of consumer goods has considerably improved.

US trade deficit likely to widen

NEW YORK, March 15, (Xinhua): The US trade deficit for January, scheduled to be released on Thursday, is expected by financial analysts to climb to between \$13 and \$15 billion after two months of encouraging drops. The figures would represent a worsening from last December's trade deficit of \$12.2 billion. Robert V. Diclemente, director of research for Salomon Brothers Inc., said the January trade gap "may be \$13 billion or a bit higher, a little on the optimistic side." He said the figure, if it does stick at around \$13 billion as expected, will have little effect on the dollar, but that a figure over \$14 billion will cause some "really nervous" reaction in the exchange markets.

Robert S. Gay, senior economist at Morgan Stanley Co., sees a deficit increase to about \$13.2 billion, which "wouldn't be disturbing" to financial markets. Betsy Waters of Barclays Bank of New York said, "there could be a good runoff, the dollar will move lower" if the January deficit increases to \$14 billion or more. Analysts predict that a January deficit of \$12 billion or less would send the dollar a little higher.

Last November, the deficit fell to 13.22 billion, an encouraging drop of \$4.41 billion that spurred many economists to think the United States had escaped the headache or trade imbalance. Most analysts attribute the possible deficit increase to seasonal reasons, including the fact that shipments of US agricultural commodities usually slow down in January after months of heartening figures from fall harvests.

Diclemente said the US trade balance would go through "gradual improvement" in the next few months with "no really dramatic changes."

China to set up body to manage spiralling debt

BEIJING, March 15, (Reuters): China's parliament is setting up an organisation to manage the country's spiralling foreign debt, which Chinese economists warn has risen too fast.

A Western banker said the body, the debt management office under the ministry of finance, would be set up because of poor management of loans that have risen to nearly \$30 billion from only a few billion in 1979.

"China remains an excellent and popular creditor," he said. "But up to now it has been paying only interest on its loans. In the 1990s repayment of principal begins. This is what China must be careful about."

The Peking Financial Times warned that a repayment peak would occur from 1991 to 1993, when loans contracted in the 1980s fall due.

"The weak management of our foreign debt must be rapidly changed," it said. "The vital lesson of some debtor countries is that they did not manage their

debt well and could not repay the large amounts of principal and interest at the due time — leading to a debt crisis."

China is a comparative newcomer to the world of former loans. Under leader Mao Tsetung, who died in 1976, it borrowed as little as possible from the capitalist world.

Japanese banks were the first to loan to Chinese borrowers under the reforms and aggressively sought customers, offering interest rates other foreign banks could not match. Yen debt accounted for 46 per cent of foreign loans at the end of 1986, but the appreciation of the yen means China is now paying heavily for this.

Optimistic

The Financial Times said it was not easy to be optimistic about foreign debt and blamed the rapid increase in debt on poor management and the variety of bodies able to approve it.

The China Daily business weekly said: "Some local enter-

prises cannot repay the money they borrowed and have to rely on the government to cover their debt."

"Some enterprises did not make the necessary feasibility studies before borrowing and the central government has not been able to control loans for non-productive projects."

The paper quoted an unnamed official saying the country's debt was getting close to 20 per cent of export earnings, the limit regarded by foreign bankers as safe.

Economist Bao Zheng of the elite People's University said in the Shanghai World Economic Herald last month that from 1982 to 1986 borrowings rose an average 35 per cent a year. In that time the share of cheap government loans fell and that of costly commercial loans rose.

In some cases, factories imported equipment that could not be used, or which needed expensive imported spare parts.

Zheng cited the example of 19 projects in the southern city of

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	INCHCAPE	723.0
ABBEY LIFE	270.0	JAGUAR	322.0
ADT LTD	111.0	LADROCK	400.0
ALD LYONS	378.0	LAND SEC	531.0
AMSTRAD	170.0	LAPORTE	377.0
ARGILL GP	208.0	LASMO	329.0
ASDA GP	178.0	LEGAL-GEN	288.0
BAA PP	115.0	LEONRO	253.0
BTR	267.0	LUCAS IND	625.0
BAT INDS	452.0	MAGNET	231.0
BATCLAYS	494.0	MARKS+SP	185.0
BASS	850.0	MAXWELL C	255.0
BEAZER	190.0	METAL BOX	196.0
BEECHAMS	478.0	MEPC	511.0
BET ORD	340.0	MIDLAND BK	393.6
BICC PLC	340.0	NEXT	299.0
BLUE ARM	116.0	NTH FOODS	272.0
BLUE CIRC	392.0	P & O DFD	582.0
BOOTS CO	236.0	PEARL	438.0
BPI INDS	290.0	PEARSON	664.0
BR COMM	300.0	PILKINGTON	228.0
BR AIRWAT	170.0	PLESLEY	163.0
BR AEROSP	378.0	PRUDENTIAL	850.0
BR GAS PP	143.0	RACAL	232.0
B.P. NEW	78.0	RAIK HVS	327.0
BR TELCOM	258.0	RANK ORG	598.0
BRITOL	510.0	RCKITT+CO	822.0
BUNZL	170.0	REDLAND	427.0
BURMAN OL	507.0	REDFORD	419.0
BURTON	258.0	RYL BK SC	365.0
CABLEMIR	4200.0	RMC GRP	454.0
CADBURYS	265.0	RTZ CORP.	326.0
COATS VTY	243.0	ROLLS ROY	130.0
COGN UN	328.0	ROTHMAN R	430.0
COOKS GOLF	845.0	ROMTRE	465.0
COOKSON	578.0	ROYAL INS	413.0
COURTAULD	326.0	SAATCHI	433.0
DALGETY	293.0	SAHSBURY	237.0
DEE CP	193.5	SCOT+NEW	276.0
DIXONS	400.0	SEARS	136.0
ENG CHINA	356.0	SEDEGWICK	213.0
ENTER OIL	356.0	SHELL	055.0
FERRANTI	84.0	SMITH+NEP	143.0
FISONS	72.0	SMITHS A	307.0
GEN ACCO	902.0	STC	254.0
GEN ELEC	156.0	STOREHSE	246.0
GLAXO	093.0	SUN ALLIA	957.0
GLAMA	332.0	TARMAC	255.0
GLOBE	142.0	TATEALTYE	840.0
GRAND MET	498.0	TESCO	169.0
GUS A	150.0	THORN EMI	607.0
GUARD RTL	935.0	TRAF HSE	340.0
GKN	330.0	TSE	110.0
GUINNESS	320.0	T+N	186.0
HMMERS A	138.0	TRUSTHE	245.0
HUKER SIO	293.0	ULTRAMAR	260.0
HILLSDOWN	048.0	UNILEVER	498.0
ICI	210.0	UNIGATE	272.0
JNI	210.0	UTD BISC	263.0
		UTD HUSPR	448.0
		WELLCOME	475.0
		WITROD IN	313.0
		WILLIAMS	302.0
		WILLIS FB	212.0
		WIMPPEY	258.0
		WOOLWORTH	299.0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELECT	372.0	373.0
ADP PLC	130.0	130.0
ARI NEW	264.0	265.0
AARONSON	125.0	125.0
AAH HLD	257.0	258.0
ADDISON	99.0	100.0
ADVEST	317.0	318.0
ALEX WIKI	181.0	180.0
ALLD JR B	216.0	217.0
ALLIANCE	807.0	807.0
ALLD COLL	140.0	140.0
ALLD CLUT	53.4	53.0
AMARI	169.0	169.0
AMEC	365.0	366.0
AMER TRST	117.0	118.0
AMERSHAM	490.0	490.0
ANGLIA TV	414.0	413.0
ANSBACHER	67.0	66.0
APPLEYARD	405.0	400.0
ARPCOT	110.0	111.0
ARAB ENER	70.0	70.0
ARLINGTON	201.0	201.0
ARSTRONG	148.0	150.0
ANGLO O'S	207.0	207.0
AQUAS-A	76.0	76.0
ASHLEY-LA	118.0	118.0
ATTWOODS	296.0	296.0
AUTO SEC	251.0	251.0
AVIS EUR	338.0	338.0
AVON RUBB	633.0	633.0
BSS INTL	63.0	63.0
BAILL JAP	477.0	476.0
BANKER INT	68.0	69.0
BK OF SCO	563.0	564.0
BARKER DO	143.0	143.0
BARRY DEV	200.0	200.0
B. WEMILL	167.0	168.0
BEJAN GP	174.0	175.0
BELHAYEN	43.0	43.0
BELLWAY	230.0	231.0
BENROSE	212.0	211.0
BENROX HD	58.0	58.0
BENNETT +F	36.0	37.0
BENTALLS	195.0	196.0
BERKELEY	302.0	302.0
BERKLEY	321.0	322.0
BLACK LE 2	24.0	24.0
BLACK LE 2	20.0	20.0
BOASE MAS	286.0	286.0
BODDINGTH	144.0	143.0
BOYER	395.0	395.0
BORLAND	104.0	104.0
BORTHWICK	47.0	47.0
BOUATRE	388.0	389.0
BOUWMEEST	130.0	130.0
BRAMMER	230.0	231.0
BRENT CHE	139.0	140.0
BRENT MGR	354.0	355.0
BRIDON	149.0	149.0
BRITANNIC	010.0	010.0

BR ASSETS	64.4	65.0
BR DREDGI	132.0	131.0
BR LAND	278.0	277.0
BR VITA	435.0	435.0
BRITTON E	266.0	267.0
U-BRD ST	47.0	47.0
BRUNNER	107.0	107.0
BULMER HP	160.0	158.0
BURGESS	243.0	244.0
CRH	118.0	118.0
U-CPU COM	91.0	90.0
CALEDONIA	347.0	348.0
CALOR GRP	553.0	555.0
CAMP INST	42.0	42.0
CAMP ELEC	228.0	228.0
CANNING W	200.0	200.0
CANNON ST	287.0	286.0
CAP GRP	200.0	201.0
CAP RADIO	187.0	186.0
CARDON	324.0	325.0
CARLCO EN	163.0	163.0
CARLESS C	109.0	109.0
CARLTON C	733.0	730.0
CATER ALL	345.0	345.0
CENTL ITV	531.0	535.0
CHATER CH	318.0	318.0
CHARTERHA	31.4	32.0
CHORLIDE	54.0	55.0
CHRISTIES	559.0	560.0
CHAS CHUR	119.0	120.0
U-CIFER	13.4	15.0
U-CLIFF	91.0	92.0
CLYDE PET	116.0	116.0
COALITE	311.0	312.0
COATES BR	320.0	325.0
CASE GRP	63.0	63.0
KAIRK SAVE	325.0	326.0
KAIRK GP	227.0	228.0
LAING ORP	310.0	310.0
LAING 'A'	310.0	310.0
LAING PRP	424.0	425.0
LAING HL	263.0	262.0
LAIDLISLE	313.0	315.0
LAURENCE W	144.0	144.0
LEIGH INT	201.0	202.0
LEX SERV	355.0	356.0
LILLEY FJ	40.4	41.0
LOGICA	261.0	260.0
LON FRD	159.0	160.0
LIT	29.0	29.0
LON & NAW	270.0	270.0
LON & MET	170.0	170.0
LASHO OPS	160.0	160.0
LON SHIP	223.0	222.0
LON UTD	206.0	205.0
LOVELL HD	256.0	256.0
LOUWMEEST	231.0	231.0
LOW (MR)	570.0	570.0
LOW HURD	386.0	385.0
LVT HLD	146.0	147.0
M&G GRP	380.0	381.0
M&GRO	280.0	283.0
MARCARTHY	291.0	291.0
MAI	109.0	110.0
MANDERS	372.0	373.0
MANSFIELD	445.0	445.0
MARLEY	160.0	160.0
MARSHALL	117.0	117.0
MATTHEWS	84.0	84.0
MCCALPINE	443.0	440.0
MCCARTHY	478.0	478.0
MCCOCHIE	326.0	326.0
MENEC	217.0	218.0
MENZIES J	360.0	360.0
MERCH TST	143.0	145.0
U-MRWDY	389.0	389.0
METALURX	90.0	91.0
MEYER INT	390.0	390.0
U-MICROVT	42.0	40.0
MIDSUMMER	323.0	324.0
MINEY HD	875.0	875.0
U-MOLMAR	37.0	38.0
MONKS IT	204.0	205.0
MORGATE M	138.0	138.0
MORGAN CR	249.0	250.0
MORGAN GP	275.0	274.0
U-MRIS W	8.0	8.0
MURKIN SHK	261.0	261.0
MURKIN	495.0	495.0
MNT CHLT	129.0	129.0
MNT CHLT	168.0	168.0
MOWLEM J	418.0	418.0
MUCKLOW	154.0	153.0
MRY INTL	171.0	171.0
MRY INTL	161.0	162.0
NEVARTHIL	323.0	325.0
NHAN INDS	63.0	63.0
NHAN TONK	180.0	183.0
NEVS INTL	265.0	265.0
NORFOLK C	28.0	28.0
NORMANS	52.0	55.0
H.MER TS	354.0	355.0
N.E.H.L.D	108.0	108.0
NORTH OPR	143.0	143.0
NURD+PCO	140.0	140.0
OCEAN TPT	290.0	290.0
OCEANICS	22.0	23.0
OWNERS AB	80.0	81.0
OXFORD INS	235.0	234.0
PACIFIC A	123.0	123.0
PARKFIELD	341.0	341.0
PEACHEY P	393.0	400.0
PENTLAND	133.0	134.0
PIDCON	58.0	59.0
PHOENIX	104.0	103.0
PICKVICK	201.0	201.0
PLEASURAN	182.0	181.0
POLLY PCK	280.0	281.0
POMELL D	333.0	333.0
POMERSON	121.0	121.0
PREDT(A)	158.0	158.0
PREM CONS	64.0	64.0

HALMA	167.0	168.0
HAMBROS I	201.0	201.0
HARRIS CH	576.0	575.0
U-HAMTHRN	29.4	30.0
HEATH(CE)	375.0	375.0
HELENE LN	46.0	46.0
HENDSON GP	365.0	366.0
HPMTH CRN	250.0	252.0
HEWDSN ST	135.0	136.0
HEYWOOD W	317.0	317.0
HICKSON IH	169.0	170.0
HIGGS HIL	347.0	348.0
HILND DIS	99.0	100.0
HOGG TST	244.0	245.0
HOLLIS	123.0	123.0
HOLMES PR	106.0	106.0
HODGEN GP	106.0	106.0
U-HUGHES	102.0	102.0
18STOCK J	186.0	186.0
ICE FZ FD	317.0	318.0
IMRY INTL	377.0	380.0
INDPNT	43.4	44.0
INDPNT W	9.0	9.0
INT.BU.CH	120.0	121.0
INVERGORD	205.0	205.0
INV.CAP.	323.0	323.0
INT.CITY	188.0	187.0
JNSN.MATH	262.0	262.0
KALON GP	35.4	35.4
KENDY BRK	402.0	402.0
KETSON	72.0	73.0
KLMRT BEH	390.0	392.0
KLURT D'S	118.0	118.0
U-KUNICK	36.0	36.0
KWIK-FIT	193.0	193.0
KAIRK SAVE	325.0	326.0
KAIRK GP	227.0	228.0
LAING ORP	310.0	310.0
LAING 'A'	310.0	310.0
LAING PRP	424.0	425.0
LAING HL	263.0	262.0
LAIDLISLE	313.0	315.0
LAURENCE W	144.0	144.0
LEIGH INT	201.0	202.0
LEX SERV	355.0	356.0
LILLEY FJ	40.4	41.0
LOGICA	261.0	260.0
LON FRD	159.0	160.0
LIT	29.0	29.0
LON & NAW	270.0	270.0
LON & MET	170.0	170.0
LASHO OPS	160.0	160.0
LON SHIP	223.0	222.0
LON UTD	206.0	205.0
LOVELL HD	256.0	256.0
LOUWMEEST	231.0	231.0
LOW (MR)	570.0	570.0
LOW HURD	386.0	385.0
LVT HLD	146.0	147.0

U-PROP TS	2/6	2/6
PROUDFOOT	261.0	261.0
QUEENS MO	99.0	99.0
U-RIDSWTH	150.0	150.0
RATNERS	239.0	240.0
READICUT	72.0	73.0
REDFEARN	495.0	495.0
REED(AU)	343.0	345.0
REED(AU)	209.0	209.0
REFUGEE GP	458.0	460.0
RENSHAW	151.0	151.0
RENOLO	66.0	66.0
RENTKIL	203.0	203.0
RIP GROUP	200.0	200.0
ROBINSON	458.0	459.0
ROCKWELL	71.0	71.0
U-ROLFERN	180.0	179.0
ROTHSCOLD	161.0	162.0
ROMNEY	310.0	310.0
ROTARY	149.0	148.0
RUBERD	163.0	163.0
RUGBY GRP	251.0	251.0
SAGA HOLDS	174.0	174.0
SALVESON	144.0	143.0
SAVILLE G	47.0	47.0
SAVOY 'A'	790.0	790.0
SCOT AN I	86.0	87.0
SCOT HRI	182.0	182.0
SCOT I.T.	122.0	123.0
SCOT MET	122.0	122.0
SCOT MORT	100.0	101.0
SCT NAT C	41.0	41.0
SCT NAT I	85.4	85.4</

Worst may not be over, say bankers

Foreign banks in Egypt feel the pinch

CAIRO, March 15, (Reuters): Once, it used to be said, there were as many black market currency dealers on the streets of Cairo as taxi drivers.

Today, after a 10-month government clampdown which has cut their numbers sharply, Egypt is close to unravelling a tangled web of official and unofficial currency rates.

But the reforms that hit the black market have also dried up supplies of foreign currencies. And that affects more than the currency händler on the corner — some foreign banks in Egypt say their business in the country has slowed.

Credits

"The economy is stagnating and customers cannot find dollars to pay back foreign currency credits," said one Western banker. "Foreign banks are having a long, hard time about Egypt."

Since the crackdown on the black market began last May as part of a reform package backed by the International Monetary

Fund (IMF), many foreign banks have closed offices, cut staff and, in some cases, pulled out of Egypt. Bankers say the worst may not be over.

At the end of this month, Chase Manhattan Bank is closing its last office in Egypt. It was the first foreign bank allowed into the country as part of the late President Anwar Sadat's "open door" policy introduced in 1975.

Regulations

The major problems for foreign banks lie in Egypt's complex foreign exchange regulations, but bankers say they have been exacerbated by a stagnant economy and rising competition from Islamic investment houses which are expanding at breakneck speed and attracting large amounts of hard currency.

About 40 banks operate in Egypt, the majority incorporated as branches of foreign banks. In addition, there are 11 joint-venture banks and four wholly state-owned Egyptian banks.

But the branches are not all-

owed to deal in Egyptian pounds. That was no problem in the 1970s, when they financed industry and investment with a growing volume of foreign currency loans, and high oil prices meant there was no shortage of dollars for an oil producer such as Egypt.

But in the past few years sliding oil prices coincided with IMF pressure to reform Egypt's currency.

Devaluation

That led to a sharp devaluation and shortage of foreign exchange — many private sector companies which borrowed dollars from foreign banks have been unable to repay their debt.

Bankers say last May's government drive against the black market, coinciding with a \$325-million IMF credit and reform package, cut off companies' major source of hard currency to repay loans, and arrears could now total \$4 billion.

The government took steps last month to free more dollars for private debt settlement but

bankers doubt they will work. The joint-venture banks, which in contrast can deal in Egyptian pounds, have also been fighting a rear-guard campaign to prevent a loosening of Central Bank restrictions on their competitors, the foreign banks.

System

Bankers say foreign branches lobbied hard in recent months to be allowed to deal in local currency or for the government to introduce a system of licensing for exchange brokers to speed the legal flow of hard currency through the system.

But the chairmen of joint-venture banks appear to have won the skirmish and the pleas were rejected.

"Why should branches be allowed to operate on the same terms as joint-venture banks?" asked one banker at a joint-venture. "We wouldn't have come in here with a local partner if that had been the case... we would have gone it alone too."

Bankers say the rebuff could hasten the pace of retrenchment

among foreign banks in Egypt, although many have already pared operations to the bone.

New lending is at a low ebb since banks now often only grant hard currency loans if they are fully collateralised from abroad. That leaves business concentrated on letters of credit and some investment management.

Citibank, which closed its office in the Cairo suburb of Heliopolis last year, now has less than 40 staff or just a third of its peak. Lloyds bank has pared back sharply, while Midland Bank and Royal Bank of Canada pulled out in 1986.

Decision

Chase's decision to close its representative office at the end of March followed within a year of its sale of a 49 per cent stake in a joint-venture with National Bank of Egypt.

Bankers said Chase's retrenchment was mainly influenced by a worldwide review of operations, but they added the sluggish business climate in Egypt may also have played a role.

Arabs urged to boost investments in Egypt

CAIRO, March 15, (Kuna): A prominent Kuwaiti economist today praised the new investment atmosphere in Egypt, affirming that his country is on the verge of broadening its investments in Egypt.

Abdul Aziz Al Saquer, president of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry and stressed that Arab investment inside the Arab world is more secure and stable if a sound ground is provided for it.

An Arab investment forum opened here last Sunday with the participation of heads and members of nine Arab chambers of commerce and industry and some 700 businessmen.

In an interview with Kuna, Al Saquer described investing Arab capitals in the Arab world as a "national duty" which must be backed.

He indicated that investing in foreign countries might be profitable but full of risks, adding that Egypt has eliminated many obstacles before Arab investment including the floating of the Egyptian pound and allowing Arab capitals to leak out of Egypt.

Al Saquer called on Arab investors to invest their capitals in Egypt, noting that it owns a vast market and abundant, cheap and good labour, which qualify the large Arab country to absorb large amounts of capitals.

Relations

Commenting on Kuwaiti-Egyptian investment relations, he said that Kuwaiti investments in Egypt weigh heavily and Kuwait is about to increase them, pending that some problems related to Kuwait-owned real estates in Egypt are resolved.

Al Saquer had asked the Egyptian government to endorse a special law towards exempting Kuwaiti real estate owners in Egypt from problems such as delays in registering their properties.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 15, (Reuters): The market closed slightly weaker in subdued trade, dragged down by falls among leading miners and selected industrials. The All Ordinaries index ended 3.3 points down at 1,358.7.

TOKYO: Aggressive buying of large capitalisation issues sent the Nikkei share index up in robust trade. It rose 42.16 points, or 0.17 per cent to 25,475.77. Rises matched falls in volume of 1.7 billion shares.

HONG KONG: Late bargain hunting lifted prices from their early lows to close little changed. The Hang Seng index shed 5.76 points to end at 2,578.92.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed marginally lower on sporadic profit-taking by small investors in relatively quiet trading. The Straits Times industrial index fell 3.84 points to 944.12.

PARIS: Shares ended a 0.24 per cent down in very quiet trade with most operators remaining sidelined amid pre-election uncertainty and ahead of the publication of US trade figures.

LONDON: Equities were spurred to the day's highs with Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson's budget speech. At 1603 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was up a net 21.5 points at 1,841.

NEW YORK: Stocks still showed little change with blue chips trading around yesterday's closing level. The Dow 30 was unchanged at 2050 while declining and gaining issues were in balance.

Saudis and 5-member pricing panel reluctant to hold meeting

Oil traders expect increasing price volatility

TOKYO, March 15, (Reuters): Crude oil prices will be volatile and generally head lower in the next few weeks in the wake of Saudi Arabia's opposition to measures to halt the slide, oil sources said today.

Oil prices have fallen some \$4.50 below the \$18 a barrel Opec target price in recent weeks due to a worldwide oversupply and widespread price discounting by Opec members.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said today that he opposed an output cut by Opec to shore-up falling world oil prices.

Price

"Saudi Arabia doesn't seem to care about the price of oil at the moment," said one Japanese oil economist.

Ample supplies of crude oil, particularly from the Middle East, will continue to exert strong downward pressure on the market, oil traders said.

"Japanese refiners are going to be able to pick and choose and prices will fall," said one analyst. "There's room for prices to fall below \$12."

Japanese companies virtually

halted Saudi crude oil purchases in March because Saudi Arabia rejected their requests for price discounts in line with those offered by other Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries producers.

But oil industry sources said Saudi Arabia is considering cutting its oil prices to Japanese terms buyers.

"Saudi Arabia asked if Japanese firms could lift any oil in April if the price was right," said one Japanese refiner.

Speculators

Oil speculators will take advantage of Opec's lack of control over the market to manipulate price movements and increase their chances to make large profits, an oil analyst said.

"Whenever you've got this situation where Opec is not prepared to pick up the reins, the speculators will try to create rumours to move the market," he said.

"Fundamentally the market is not at all strong," a Japanese oil trader said. "If prices move up we'll see a lot of sellers coming out and driving the price down again."

Meanwhile, Petroleum Intelligence Weekly has reported that Saudi Arabia and several other members of Opec's five-member pricing panel are reluctant to hold a meeting on production cutbacks to stem the recent oil price slide.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries established the pricing committee at its December meeting and gave the panel the authority to call for an extraordinary meeting of the 13-nation group if oil prices deviated "significantly" from the group's \$18-a-barrel benchmark price.

The current average price of Opec oil is between \$12 and \$14 a barrel on the international spot market.

Both Opec and non-Opec exporters still are hesitant "to commit themselves to the sort of production cuts that would be needed to be sure of reversing the market's downward drift," the authoritative oil journal reported.

"Chances of a full emergency conference of Opec ministers — the only grouping that could actually decide changes in current production quotas — are put at no higher than 50 per cent by Opec insiders."

Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Indonesia reject a Venezuelan request for a meeting of the pricing panel, the journal said. Nigeria is the other member on the committee.

"Fears of sending prices crashing still further if Opec were to meet and fail to agree on effective measures" is a strong factor in the negative reaction of several panel members to the Venezuelan proposal, the journal reported.

Responses

The first responses by Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Indonesia have been circulated to determine whether there is enough support within the 13-nation group to support a gathering.

Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman, chairman of the committee and Opec's current president, has the deciding vote.

"The initially negative Saudi response argued for waiting for the storm to blow itself out on grounds that market manipulation rather than economic fundamentals were to blame," the journal said.

New oil well will reach twice as far as any other

LONDON, March 15, (Reuters): A US company plans to double the world record for the horizontal "reach" of an oil well, extending it as far as six miles (9.5 km) from the wellhead.

Conoco (UK) Ltd, the British subsidiary of Conoco Inc, said today that new techniques involved in the project are expected to be especially useful in deep water and other high cost development situations.

They would reduce the number of platforms needed to drain an oil reservoir.

Projects

Conoco Ltd chairman John Ogen said: "The ability to drill at greater reach will enable the industry to develop reserves that would otherwise be uneconomic."

The well, to be drilled in the British sector of the North Sea, will cost \$40 million and be in financial terms "one of the largest research projects ever undertaken by the offshore oil and gas industry," Conoco said.

The extended reach drilling (ERD) project was seen continuing through 1989, with drilling planned to begin early that year, and Conoco would invite in other firms as partners.

The well with the longest reach drilled to date was by Esso Australia in the Bass Straits, extending nearly three miles.

GCC petrochemical marketing experts to meet

ABU DHABI, March 15, (Opecna): Petrochemical marketing experts from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will meet here on Monday to discuss coordination of policies on production, marketing and transport of petrochemical products.

The meeting is also to study a proposal on the setting up of a shipping company to facilitate the export of GCC petrochemicals.

The projected company will either be a joint venture of the GCC petrochemical industries or operate under participation arrangements with other specialised firms.

The meeting will also review the requirements and potentials of the GCC petrochemical plants and discuss services aspects.

Dollar steady

Sterling jumps as UK budget promises growth

LONDON, March 15, (Reuters): Britain's pound sterling — international investors' currency of choice last week — jumped briefly today after the government announced tax cuts in its 1988-89 budget.

But dealers said the Bank of England intervened — for the first time in days — to slow its rise and the pound quickly shed all its gains in European trading.

Cuts

London's FTSE index of 100 blue chip shares closed after an extra half an hour of trading at 1,839.9, 20.4 points up from yesterday but 7.7 off its high for the day. It was the index's highest closing level since October 21, just after the Black Monday crash on world stock markets.

Tax cuts should be good for business, dealers said.

The pound jumped as much as 0.75 cents and nearly one penny to highs of around \$1.86 and more than 3.09 West German marks when Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, in presenting his budget to parliament, forecast continued British economic growth.

"The British economy is stronger than at any time since the (Second World) war," Lawson said.

Surplus

But after the Bank of England stepped in while Lawson was still speaking, the pound slid to close in London at around \$1.85 and 3.08 marks.

Lawson, cutting the basic income tax rate by two percentage points to 25 per cent, also said Britain would run a budget surplus this year and next, for the first time since 1969.

"A balanced budget is a valuable discipline for the medium term," he said. "Having achieved it, I intend to stick to it."

The dollar was steady at 1.6640 marks and 127 Japanese yen, while Wall Street shares

Lawson, cutting the basic income tax rate by two percentage points to 25 per cent, also said Britain would run a budget surplus this year and next, for the first time since 1969. "A balanced budget is a valuable discipline for the medium term," he said.

were little changed.

Oil prices, meanwhile, eased. Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer quashed speculation of Opec action to end the worldwide glut of oil when he said yesterday he did not want the organisation to cut production.

Risk

But while weak oil prices diminish the risk that inflation might be rekindled, investors remained cautious — the price of gold, a favoured hedge against inflation, held steady. It was fixed at \$442.20 an ounce in London this afternoon.

Meanwhile, with British government concerns about inflation keeping interest rates on sterling bank accounts and bonds relatively high, traders have been pouring funds into Britain.

Until early last week, few traders paid much attention to sterling, believing that the British government aimed to keep its value below three West German marks for fear of pricing British goods off foreign markets.

Rates

But Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher last week warned that to keep a bid on the currency by either spending Bank of England reserves or cutting interest rates would be inflationary.

The head of the US central bank, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan, seems to agree. Today, he told

the Joint Economic Committee of Congress in Washington that Britain and other industrial nations could not hold sterling down since pressures on it were so great.

"What they chose to do was the correct action," he said. "The surge of funds into sterling pushed the pound well above the three mark ceiling."

But it rose even more against the dollar. And the flood of funds from around the world into pounds ended up depressing the dollar's value against other currencies as well.

Worries that a weak dollar will cut US sales for European and Asian companies has weighed on stock markets around the world for months.

"Sterling is still in the driver's seat," a Frankfurt currency dealers said.

Investors

Most investors remain cautious about the dollar's prospects, especially with a new US monthly trade deficit report due on Thursday. Those reports have, in the past, sent the dollar plunging — or skyrocketing.

In Tokyo, the 225-share Nikkei index edged 42.16 points higher to 25,475.77, while the Paris Bourse indicator closed 0.20 per cent lower.

The All-Share Swiss index rose 5.6 points to 855.4 points and Milan's MIB index was up 0.96 per cent.

In Frankfurt, the FAZ index was up 8.25 to 460.55.

Soviet Union seen in strong position in grain talks with US

MOSCOW, March 15, (Reuters): Bolstered by two big harvests in a row, the Soviet Union will be in a strong bargaining position when it opens bilateral grain talks with the United States in Washington this weekend, Moscow-based foreign analysts say.

The Kremlin seems unlikely to be interested in large grain purchases and might be in no hurry to conclude a new deal, Western diplomats specialising in Soviet agriculture said.

"The grain harvests of the last two years strengthen their hand," one analyst told Reuters. "If they are that confident that they can continue to produce more grain, they may want to reduce the quantities they commit themselves to buy."

Commitment

US officials have said they would try to get a big commitment as possible from Moscow in the renewal of the long-term grain pact between the two countries.

The current five-year accord, which expires in September, provides for purchases of nine million tonnes a year.

But the negotiations for a new agreement opened on Saturday at a time when the Soviet Union is working to increase the size of its own harvests through the use of new farming techniques.

The goal is a harvest of 250 million tonnes of grain by 1990, or 10 million tonnes a year more than the country needs for human consumption and livestock feed.

The new farming techniques, which include increased use of fertilisers and better seed varieties, are credited with boosting the last two harvests by up to 10 per cent.

The Soviet Union produced 211.3 million tonnes of wheat and coarse grains in 1987, after 210 million in 1986, official figures show. This was the first time it has grown crops above 200 million tonnes in two consecutive years.

However, wet weather during the 1987 harvest hurt the quality of the wheat crop, and imports of bread-quality wheat were up despite the larger harvest.

Soviet officials declined to comment on their position ahead of the Washington talks. "The details are completely confidential, and we cannot divulge them," one told Reuters.

The Soviet side will be led by Yuri Chumakov, a former deputy minister of foreign trade, and will include Oleg Klimov, head of the grain-buying agency Exportkhleb, officials said.

The first round of talks is expected to last just one day. But some Western analysts said the negotiations could drag on until August, when the Soviet Union would be able to predict its next harvest and would be in a better position to decide whether the "trend towards bigger crops was stabilising."

"If they produce 220 or 230 million tonnes this autumn, they may only want to commit themselves to buying half as much as before," one Western diplomat said.

Lawson announces big income tax cuts

(Continued from Page 1)

Western Europe.

"Excessive rates destroy enterprise... and drive talent to more hospitable shores," he said.

Record 2.8m tourists visited Turkey last year

ANKARA, March 15, (Reuters): A record 2.85 million foreign tourists visited Turkey in 1987 and the number is expected to rise substantially this year, Tourism Minister Mustafa Tmaz Tizit said today.

Tizit told reporters that tourism, a major revenue source, generated an income of \$1.7 billion in 1987, up from 1.215 billion a year earlier.

Tourists

Officials say Turkey expects to lure four million tourists this year to its sun-baked beaches and dramatic reminders of ancient civilisations.

"Tizit said the number of tourists in 1987 rose 19 per cent from the previous year. "We expect great increases this year in the number of British, German and Greek tourists," he added.

West Germany was the biggest single source with 523,600 tourists, up 35 per cent from 1986, and 266,900 were from Britain.

Meanwhile, repair crews have plugged a leaking oil pipeline that polluted the upper Tigris river in southern Turkey, oil industry sources said today.

The state-run pipeline firm Botas ruled out sabotage as cause of the leak near the start of the 400-km (250-mile) line from Batman refinery to the Mediterranean.

The sources said the leak, in an underwater section, near the town of Bismil, was plugged on Monday night several hours after it was discovered.

Saudi riyal deposits mixed in active market

BAHRAIN, March 15, (Reuters): Saudi riyal interbank deposits were mixed in an active and well-bid market today, with some traders keen to take out long positions amid speculation rates will rise later this year.

Dealers said excess liquidity had begun to disappear, most likely mopped up by a wave of dollar buying. Today's surge in demand followed a three-day lull brought on by the absence of any significant factors to give the market fresh direction.

"There was a lot of two-way interest," one dealer said. "People believe rates will be higher later this year and are taking positions."

Bonds

There was no further news on a possible issue of Saudi government bonds, anticipated during the next few weeks.

Investors in the kingdom placed orders for 1.7 million riyals of shares on the initial day of a share floatation for 300 million riyals worth of equity in a new Saudi company, Taiba Co. for investments and real estate development.



ACTRESS Diana Rigg with her 10-year-old daughter Rachel outside Buckingham Palace yesterday, holds up her Commander of the British Empire medal. She was invested by the queen with this insignia. (Reuter wirephoto)



ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and US Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci are shown prior to their meeting in Washington on Monday. The Reagan administration warned Prime Minister Shamir that it would not alter its new Middle East peace plan despite his insistence that the proposal was unacceptable. The prime minister meets with President Reagan today. (Reuter wirephoto)



NICARAGUAN Cardinal Obando y Bravo (centre) announces the offer of Nicaragua's National Reconciliation Commission to act as witnesses at next week's meetings between the Sandinista government and Contra rebels when they will discuss a possible ceasefire. Obando is accompanied by Nicaraguan Vice-President Sergio Ramirez (left) and opposition political leader Mauricio Diaz, also members of the commission. (Reuter wirephoto)



FILE picture of convicted murderer Willie Jasper Darden, who was executed in Florida's electric chair at the state prison yesterday morning despite an international campaign to save his life. Darden, 54, had been the subject of a campaign by Amnesty International, joined by prominent figures such as Pope John Paul II. (Reuter wirephoto)



A LARGE crowd of people participated in funeral ceremonies for Merco Antonio Uribe, a 19-year-old university student who was shot and killed last Saturday during clashes between students and police. The incident followed a protest in which students demanded more money from the state for the University of La Paz, in Bolivia. (Reuter wirephoto)



CANADA'S world famous track star Ben Johnson poses at the 1988 Seoul Olympics main stadium on Tuesday. Johnson set the 100-metre world record with a time of 9.83 seconds at the 1987 World Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Rome in August. He told a press conference he was determined to win gold medals in this September's Olympic Games. Johnson is visiting South Korea for a 'Canada Week' cultural show. (Reuter wirephoto)



RENATO ALTISSIMO, leader of the Italian Liberal Party, leaves Italian President Francesco Cossiga's office at Rome's Quirinale palace yesterday after consultations with Cossiga on how to solve the political crisis caused by last Friday's resignation of Prime Minister Giovanni Goria. (Reuter wirephoto)



ITALIAN policemen guard a group of protesters and trade unionists who picketed the nuclear plant at Montalto di Castro, north of Rome, to prevent resumption of work at the plant. Construction had been suspended last December after Italians voted against it in a referendum. The Goria cabinet decided some days ago to resume work. (Reuter wirephoto)



REPUBLICAN presidential candidate Vice-President George Bush meets with Illinois delegates at a rally on Monday on the eve of the Illinois primary. (Reuter wirephoto)



SOUTH AFRICAN Foreign Minister P. W. Botha on Monday said a regional peace plan proposed by Angola was not specific enough on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. He was speaking to a news briefing in Geneva, after talks with Chester Crocker, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. (Reuter wirephoto)



THE remains of one of the three members of the IRA who were shot by British security forces in Gibraltar last week arrive at Dublin Airport on Monday. An estimated 2,000 mourners gathered at Dublin Airport for the ceremony. (Reuter wirephoto)



A MAN gets some friendly advice from the crowd as he tries to rescue his car from a flooded street. The heavy snowing has caused severe traffic problems in Moabach, West Germany, and many roads have been closed to traffic. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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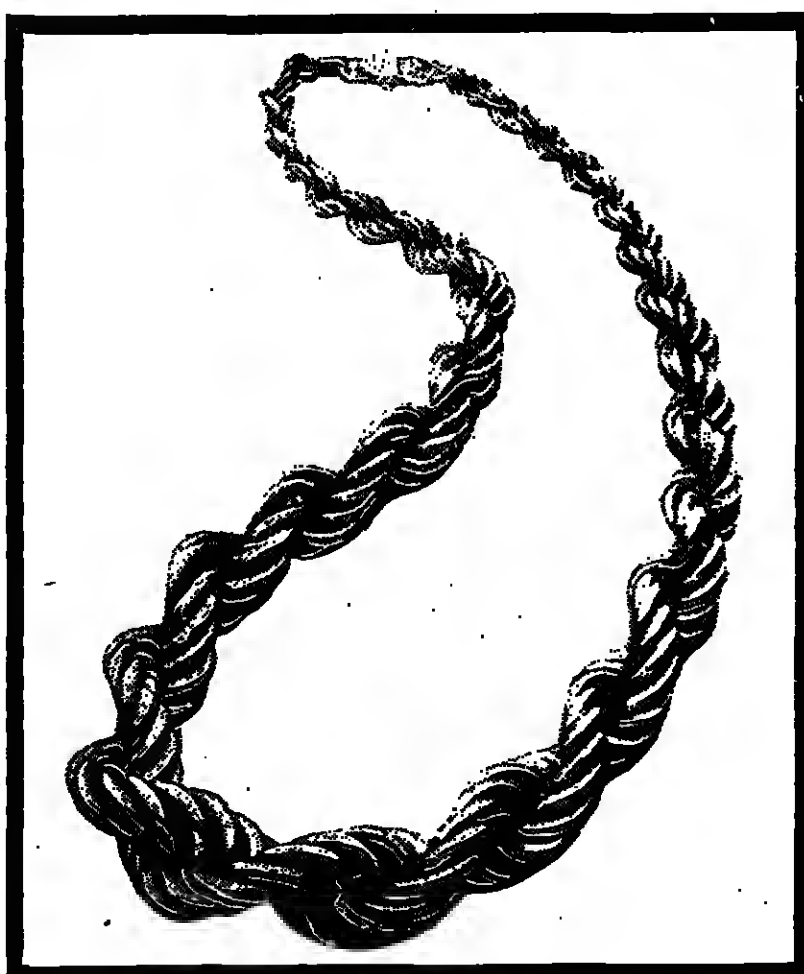
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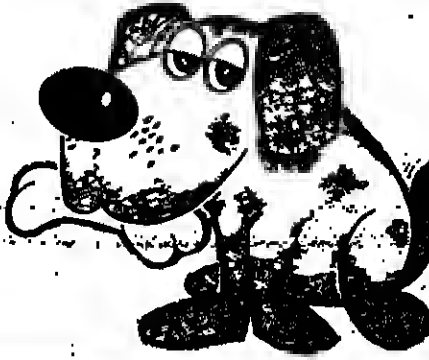
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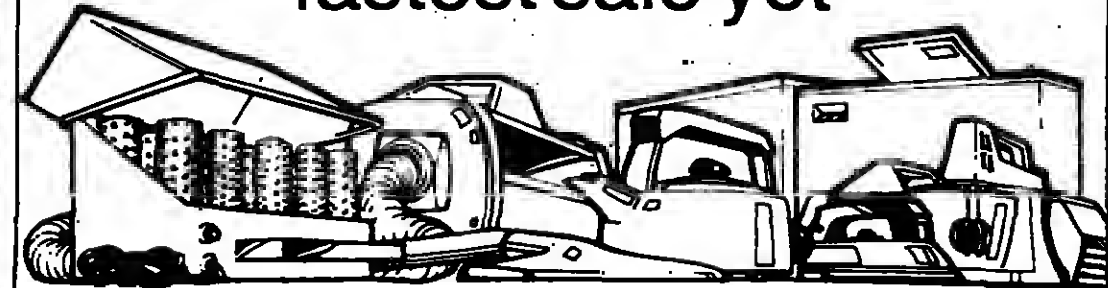
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FIVE SEEDS ELIMINATED IN FIRST ROUND

Noah holds on to scrape through

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla., March 15 (Reuters). Sixth-seed Yannick Noah of France survived a five-set test yesterday before advancing to the second round of the \$2.1 million International Players Championships.

Five other seeds were not so lucky. Noah, ranked 11 in the world, was extended by American qualifier Paul Chamberlin—204 in the world—before winning the three-hour and eight-minute match 2-6-1-3-6-7-6-6-2.

Noah lost the first set to Chamberlin's fierce passing shots and attacking style, but the Frenchman found his topspin lob to dominate the second set.

Noah's concentration wavered again in the third set which he lost 6-3, as Chamberlin served and volleyed with confidence.

Control
In the fourth set, Noah was a tiebreaker away from losing the match, but instead took control, winning the tiebreaker 7-4 to even the match at two sets apiece. The Frenchman took control in the fifth set, closing the match 6-2 with an ace.

"It was hard to concentrate," said Noah, who had taken a two-week break before winning a doubles title in Orlando, Florida on Sunday. "I was maybe too relaxed."

Fourth-seeded American Tim Mayotte used his strong serve and volley game in blustery con-



Noah survives five-set test

ditions to overcome the challenge from Spain's Sergio Casal, winning 7-6-6-3-7-5.

But it was not a happy ending for five other seeds.

On the women's side, seventh-seeded American, Lori McNeil, played a lacklustre match, losing to Italy's Federica Bonsignori, 6-2-6-4.

Bulgarian Katerina Maleeva, seeded 10th, also was upset, los-

ing to Australia's Anne Minter, 7-6-3-6-6-1. Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden, the 14th seed, was defeated by Yugoslavian, Sabrina Goleš, 2-6-6-3-7-6.

In men's play, Christo van Rensburg of South Africa, the 12th seed lost to American Scott Davis 6-2-6-3-6-3, and 14th seeded David Pate lost to fellow-American, Richey Reneberg 6-4-7-5-6-4.

Earlier in the morning, top



Wilander scored an easy win

seed Mats Wilander, Sweden's number one, served his way into the second round with a comfortable 6-3-6-2-7-5 win over Mexico's Leo Lavalie after a 50-minute rain delay.

Wilander, second in the world, maintained a high first serve percentage throughout the match and kept Lavalie on the defensive with pinpoint groundstrokes.

The Swede dropped his serve

just once in each set but broke Lavalie seven times in the match by successfully attacking the Mexican's weak second serve.

"I get psyched up when I play in a best-of-five (set) event because I know the best player is going to win most of the time," Wilander said. "I don't take any chances in the first rounds," said Wilander, who was upset in the second round at Orlando last week.

Cameroun and Nigeria score victories

RABAT, March 15, (Reuters). Nigeria's 'Green Eagles' soared to the top of Group B yesterday with a 3-0 win over Kenya while an early goal from Cameroun veteran Roger Milla seriously undermined Egypt's hopes of retaining the Africa Nations Cup.

Underdogs Kenya were sent reeling by two goals in the first 12 minutes from Rashidi Yekini and Humphrey Edebor and never looked like turning the tables. An error by goalkeeper David Ochieng in the 33rd minute presented Sam Okwaraji with the third goal.

The Kenyans fought back well in the second half, but the Nigerian defence—superbly marshalled by Sunny Eboige—had few uncomfortable moments.

Nigeria threatened an avalanche of goals after daagerman Yekini scored in the fifth minute and then created another for Humphrey Edebor seven minutes later.

Straight
Kenya's defence always looked in trouble against a bubbling Nigerian attack and in the 33rd minute keeper Ochieng mis-kicked a clearance straight to the feet of Okwaraji who simply stroked the ball into the empty goal.

Today is a rest day in the competition. Morocco meet Algeria and Zaire play the Ivory Coast in Group A matches in Casablanca tomorrow.

In the Cameroun-Egypt match, Milla, playing in his last Africa Nations Cup, pounced on a loose ball after the Egyptian defence failed to clear and slotted it to the right of keeper Ahmed Shubair.

The 'Pharaohs,' urged on by a group of some 50 chanting supporters, fought back, but were unable to find the back of the net despite coming close on a number of occasions.



Egyptian captain Imad Sultman's attempt to score is foiled by the Cameroun goalkeeper. (Reuters wirephoto)

With a well-marshalled defence and often looking dangerous on the break, Cameroun hung on to their slender lead to gain a sweet revenge over the side which beat them in the last finals two years ago.

Egypt's new-look team should have equalised in the 39th minute when attacking full-back Ibrahim Hassan slammed a shot against the cross-bar after his team mate Gamal Abdel Hamid had misjudged an incoming cross.

Moments later, Milla popped up again unmarked on the edge of the box and looked certain to put the match beyond the reach of the Egyptians.

This time he waited too long before shooting and the Egyptian defence scrambled the ball away.

Egypt came fighting back and striker Emad Sulliman looked to have levelled the scores with a spectacular diving header, but the ball floated inches wide.

The attack of Cameroun's 'indomitable Lions' was severely weakened after Francois Omam Biyick, currently enjoying a great

season with French club Laval, was injured in a collision with an Egyptian defender and had to leave the pitch.

After the interval, the Pharaohs piled on the pressure, but it was clear it was not to be their night when Shawki Ghareeb narrowly failed to score with an overhead scissors kick.

At the other end keeper Shubair leapt across his goal to keep Egypt in the game with a fine save after Cameroun's two substitutes, Bertin Olle-Olle and Eugene Ekeke, had combined well down the left wing.

Neither side managed to impose its authority. Too many passes went astray and the match remained finely balanced until the final whistle.

Definitely

Before the game, Milla told reporters he would not be around for the next Africa Nations Cup in 1990. "I am definitely going to give up in the next year," he said.

Egypt, who now face an uphill struggle to retain their title, meet Keoya in their next game on Thursday while Cameroun take on the 'Green Eagles' of Nigeria.

Agassi and Berger in US Cup squad

NEW YORK, March 15, (Reuters). Andre Agassi and Jay Berger have been named to the US Davis Cup squad that will face Peru in an American zone quarterfinal tie in Lima next month, the US Tennis Association announced yesterday.

Wimbledon doubles champions Ken Flach and Robert Seguso, who are undefeated in Davis Cup competition, will complete the American team for the tie that begins on April 8.

Agassi, 17, is the latest American whiz kid to hit the professional tennis circuit. Last month Agassi, ranked 16th in the world, won the US National Indoor tennis title at Memphis, Tennessee and reached the semifinals of the Champions Cup at Indian Wells, California.

Beaten
The 21-year-old Berger, ranked 55 in the world, last week made his presence felt when he defeated world number two Mats Wilander of Sweden in the second round of the Orlando Classic. He reached the semifinals before being beaten by Andre Chesnokov of the Soviet Union, the tournament's winner.

"I'm really pleased with their enthusiasm," said Davis Cup captain Tom Gorman of the team's two new additions. "Andre is one of the hottest players on the tour while Jay has shown strong ability on clay."

"He (Berger) won at Buenos Aires in 1986 and was runner-up last year."

The United States and Peru have never met in Davis Cup play. Peru defeated Chile 4-1 in the first round. The US received a first-round bye.

QMCC beat Hubara for top spot



Qamar: three wickets and 45 runs.

QUAID-E-MILLAT Cricket Club (QMCC) defeated Hubara Cricketers by six wickets in a Brud Trophy match at the EPI ground on Friday.

Hubara, batting first, were restricted to 130 runs in the 30 allotted overs. Hubara lost eight wickets. Greenwood was the highest scorer with 50. Qamar was the main wicket-taker with three scalps while Munir and Dilawer got two each.

Past
QMCC, needing to score over four runs an over to record their 15th win of the tournament, went past the victory target in only 18 overs. Qamar top-scored with 45 runs while Ishfaq hit 40 and Raza 30.

For Hubara Pfeiffer got two wickets. QMCC top the standings having lost only one of their 16 matches.

Liverpool approach League record

LONDON, March 15, (AP). Bill Shankly, the father figure of Liverpool football club, once said that soccer "is not a matter of life and death. It's much more important than that."

Seven years after his ashes were scattered on the turf at Anfield stadium, Shankly's words and spirit live on by the banks of the Mersey river, where his beloved "Reds" are about to write another chapter in a success story second to none in the sport.

"There is no secret to it," said Peter Robson, Liverpool's chief executive. "Just good players and good management. Bill Shankly laid the foundations. Everyone since has tried to build on that."

In this year, the final day of the English top division attempts to take its place among the all-time great soccer sides. Its exact place never will be known because of a mindless rampage three years ago.

By beating or drawing with Derby County tomorrow, Liverpool will tie the record of 29 undefeated League matches from the start of an English First Division season, set by Leeds United in 1974. That Leeds team generally is considered to be among the best Europe has seen.

On Sunday, playing cross-city rival Everton before a sellout crowd of 55,000 and a national television audience, Liverpool can set a start-of-season mark and equal the English single-

season unbeaten streak of 30 set by Burnley in 1920-21.

Everton, the defending League titlist, is the only team to beat Liverpool this season, back in October in a League Cup match.

The overall unbeaten record for the English League is 42 games, set by Nottingham Forest from November 1977-December 1978, when Liverpool ended it. With 10 games remaining after Sunday, that mark is safe for the current campaign.

Strongest
As often happens when a long-standing mark is challenged, players and coaches from the 74 Leeds team have called Liverpool just a solid club in a weak League, one that would have been hard pressed to win in the good old days.

Liverpool shakes off the criticism. "You cannot play this many games to the English Football League, probably the toughest to the world, without losing and not be outstanding," Robinson said.

The chief executive said his players "are motivated by pressure. They are big-occasion players."

They also are a vastly different team from the one that took the English League championship and FA Cup—the "double"—just two seasons back.

After losing high-scoring Ian Rush to Juventus of Italy, man-

ager Kenny Dalglish assembled a squad so deep that it forced him into retirement as a player and provided a bench strong enough to start for most of Division One.

From the division's top scorer John Aldridge to speedy striker John Barnes and the skillfully inventive Peter Beardsley, it is a murderers' row that cost £10 million (\$18 million) to assemble and is proving to be worth every penny.

"They gave my players a one game the kind of experience they would collect in a whole season in the First Division," said Mel Machin, manager of Division Two Manchester City, a 4-0 loser to Liverpool in an FA Cup quarterfinal Sunday.

Like Bjorn Borg and his five consecutive Wimbledon championships, Edwin Moses and his 122 consecutive victories in the 400-metre hurdles and the 17-0 Miami Dolphins of the National Football League in 1972, Liverpool is about to break new ground in dominating a season or an event.

But unlike those champions, and previous Liverpool teams, the ultimate accolade is being denied to the present "Reds."

A riot by Liverpool fans at the 1985 European Champions Cup final in Brussels, Belgium, left 39 people dead, most of them Italian supporters of the opposing team, Juventus.

As a result, European Club Championships are closed to

English teams. Whenever that ban is lifted, Liverpool must serve a further three-year suspension.

"It's a great shame that this team will not have the opportunity to play in Europe and very frustrating for the players," Robinson said.

Other top teams around Europe agree.

"Real Madrid wants UEFA to remove the ruling prohibiting Liverpool as soon as possible," said Manuel Fernandez Trigo, managing director of the famed Spanish club, a clear leader in its League this season. "Right now, Real is capable of defeating any team in Europe, although I believe the English team is one of the great European sides."

The strength of Dalglish's team is an imaginative offence that bamboozles defences from all angles. It also has skill, a quality held by every Liverpool team.

Through the first 28 League matches, Liverpool has scored 66 goals, 15 more than anyone else, while conceding a division-low 12 goals. It has shutout 18 opponents and been held scoreless just two times. It has scored four goals or more in nine League games, also a division high.

The fans, as always, have responded. Average attendance for Liverpool's League matches this season is 39,500, second only to Manchester United, despite long-term economic woes in the area.

Crowe out of New Zealand team

WELLINGTON, March 15, (Reuters). A back injury has caused star batsman Martin Crowe to pull out of New Zealand's team to play England in the third of four one-day cricket matches tomorrow.

England lead the series 2-0 and New Zealand's already weak batting will be greatly handicapped by Crowe's absence from the match at Napier. He said he hopes to be fit for the final match at Auckland on Saturday.

Batsman and sometime wicket-keeper Tony Blair was called in

as Crowe's replacement. The New Zealand batting lineup should be strengthened by the return to fitness of Andrew Jones who is almost certain to play at Napier.

Announced

England named 13 men including fast bowler Graham Dilley. He injured his knee in the third Test at Wellington and has not played since.

The visitors' final team will be announced just before the start of play after Dilley has a fitness test.

Teams: New Zealand—John Wright (captain), Robert Vance, Andrew Jones, Mark Greatbatch, Tony Blair, Ken Rutherford, Chris Kuggeleijn, Ian Smith, Martin Snedden, Willie Watson, Danny Morrison, Ewen Chatfield.

England—Mike Gatting (captain), Chris Broad, Martyn Moxon, Tim Robinson, Neil Fairbrother, David Capel, John Emburey, Bruce French, Paul Jarvis, Phillip DeFreitas, Neal Radford, Graham Dilley, Eddie Hemmings.



Crowe: injured

Maqsood helps Starlite clinch Gulf Bank Trophy

STARLITE retained the Gulf Bank Trophy with a three-wicket victory over Unity in the final, organised by Unity Cricketers, at the KOC new Ground, Ahmadi, on Friday.

Starlite skipper Iqbal Rizvi, after winning the toss, put Unity in to bat and this decision seemed to pay dividends as Ejaz bowled Badar with the Unity total only five.

Accurate
Ejaz and Maqsood batted cautiously and took the score to 81 before the latter was caught by Iqbal off Maqbool for 26. Both Starlite's Ejaz and Maqbool bowled the accurate line and length and kept troubling all the Unity batsmen.

Ejaz, playing with a lot of concentration, was finally deceived by a slower delivery from his namesake and gave Maqbool an easy catch to leave Unity at 86 for three in 14 overs.

The middle-order batting of Lewis (32) and Babar (58) took the score beyond the 150 mark. Both the batsmen played sensibly and boosted the total to 161 when Lewis was caught by Sohail off Qayyum. With the fall of this wicket Unity found the runs difficult to get.

Maqbool continued to bowl well and beat Babar a number of times. Sohail finally accounted for Babar, having him caught behind at 203. Sohail later bowled Rafiq at 219. Inam was also bowled by Sohail. It was the third consecutive match in which Inam had been bowled by Sohail. Shabbir scored 17 and Chris 19 as Unity managed to reach 264 in



Iqbal Rizvi receives the championship trophy.

45 overs. Sohail bowled extremely well to capture four wickets for 60 runs. Ejaz and Qayyum took two wickets each while Maqbool got one.

Starlite opened their innings through Iqbal and Arshad with the former being more adventurous and scoring 36 before he was dismissed by Lewis with the score at 53. Arif joined Arshad and both of them took the score



Maqsood Ahmed takes the Man of the Match award.

to 102 before Arshad, who had curbed his natural instinct to hit the ball hard, was deceived by a flighted delivery by Lewis. Qayyum was tense when he came in and padded most of the deliveries from Lewis before he was caught lbw to one of them for four.

Arif kept on gathering the runs in ones and twos before Badar uprooted the stumps. Arif scored



Maqsood Ahmed takes the Man of the Match award.

30 and Starlite seemed to be in all sorts of trouble at 115 for five in 21 overs.

Starlite's Maqsood Ahmed turned the tables on Unity with some fine shots. Batting courageously with an injured finger, Maqsood Ahmed took the Unity attack apart. He was very comfortable against both pace and spin bowling and hit spinner Rafiq Butt for four sixes, three of

them clearing the sight screen by a good margin.

Chris brought an end to Ejaz's innings by bowling him. Ejaz had been batting steadily and nobody had been taking notice of him with Maqsood Ahmed around. But Ejaz's support to Maqsood Ahmed had done the damage to Unity, who were now more solidly placed.

Sohail also hit a quick 16 before he was dismissed by Badar to make Starlite 237 for seven in 39 overs. Maqsood Ahmed, however, stuck to the task hitting five sixes and seven fours to guide Starlite to victory. Maqsood Ahmed remained unbeaten on 97 as Starlite scored 265 for seven in 42 overs.

Lewis was the best bowler for Unity with three wickets for 39 in eight overs. Badar took two wickets while Chris got one. Rafiq's five overs cost him 39 runs while Shabbir was hit for 42 runs in six overs.

Mohammed Yousuf Al Saif, general manager (Domestic Banking Group), gave away the prizes. Iqbal Rizvi received the championship trophy while Maqsood Ahmed was Man of the Match.

Fifa to draft security plan

GENEVA, March 15, (Xinhua). The Federation of International Football Association (Fifa) will work out a security plan for its 158 sub-federations to avoid tragedies happened in Nepal and Libya last week left nearly 100 people dead, according to a report from Zurich, Switzerland.

Guido Tognoni, Fifa spokesman, said at the headquarters of the Fifa yesterday that one aspect of the plan was to help disperse spectators in an emergency.

Fifa pays more attention to stadium security at major international competitions it arranges, such as the World Cup, Tognoni added.

Fifa asked national federations of Libya and Nepal to give out details of last week's incidents.

SPORTS

AL HAJRI TO LEAD OFF KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL RALLY

Fisa back down on Group B ban

By Gail Seery

FEDERATION Internationale du Sport Automobile (Fisa) have backed down over their instruction to the KTMSD, organisers of tomorrow's Kuwait International Rally, to cancel group B cars for B-seeded drivers.

At 3 pm yesterday afternoon a telex was received from the organisation, based in France, who govern the sport all over the world. In it, Fisa accepted full blame for the misleading and damaging telexes which were sent to the club, and expressed their apologies.

Apologise

The telex read: "urgent — due to a misunderstanding and an error in certain copies of our Fisa Middle East rally regulations, we apologise for having despatched yesterday wrong information concerning the participation of seeded rally drivers. We therefore, confirm that the regulations remain unchanged in 88 and that the participation of 1st and 2nd seeded rally drivers is forbidden only for cars of groups 2, 4 and S & non authorised group B. This means that these drivers are allowed to participate with group B as defined in article 21 of the international sporting code. Best Regards P. de Connick."

"Rothmans would have backed out, and Toyota would



Bin Sulayem (left), Al Hajri (centre) and Morgan share a joke at scrutineering.

never have entered a rally again," a relieved Ronan Morgan told the Arab Times at scrutineering yesterday. The championship for this year would have been damaged, and the future of the sport in the region could well have suffered.

The Kuwait International Rally found itself in the midst of controversy when a telex was received from Fisa on Monday confirming that the B-seeded drivers, Saeed Al Hajri, Mohammed Bin Sulayem, and Michel Saleh would not be allowed to start the rally driving Group B cars. This came as a complete shock to unwary crews who had been convinced that the uncertainty about the seeding numbers on the part of the officials was the

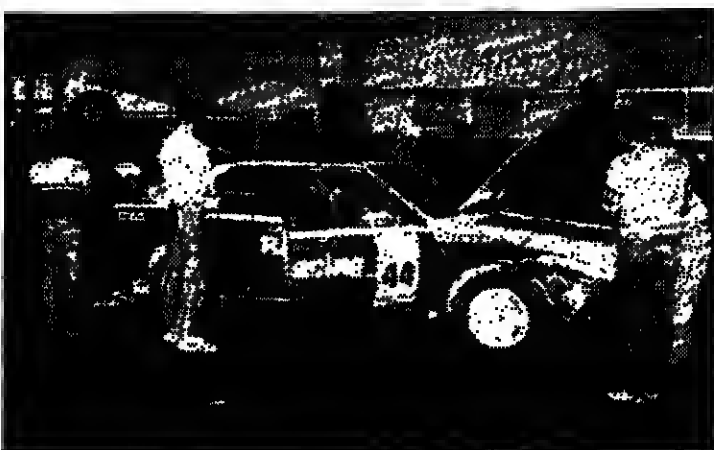
result of a total misreading of an earlier telex from Fisa.

In January, Arab Times carried a report that Fisa had banned Group B cars for the B-seeded drivers, in the Kuwait Rally regulations, and criticised Fisa for sending the telex only three weeks before the first round of the championship. Following the publication of our article, the other interested clubs, Qatar and Jordan, sought to clarify the position.

Their intervention served primarily to confuse the issue. Derek Ledger of the Jordan RAC contacted the club and alleged that their reading of the telex — which he had never seen — was incorrect. Fisa subsequently sent a second telex to the club which fudged the issue still more. They had been informed that we had said that Group B cars were totally banned from Kuwait. In fact we had quoted their telex exactly: "cancel Group B in first and second series." This wording referred to the regulations for the rally, sent by KTMSD to Fisa in December.

Fisa effectively reprimanded the club, and said that Group B cars were allowed. This seems to be where the confusion crept in. Although Fisa said that Group B cars were allowed to participate, they did not clarify the point at issue; that is, whether B-seeded drivers concerned were allowed to drive them.

When Clerk of the Course and



Al Hajri sits in his car while it is being checked.

chairman of the Organising Committee Wael Khoury went through the correspondence following the opening of the rally office on Saturday, he was struck by this omission and showed the telex to visiting Steward of the event Costas Glossotis, a Fisa official and the Acropolis rally organiser, whose experience in interpreting Fisa edicts is unquestionable. He felt that Fisa's instructions were as clear as day, and advised Khoury to check with Fisa at the first opportunity. This could not be until Monday morning, because of the French weekend.

Khoury and Glossotis both spoke to Pierre de Connick, the Fisa official in charge of Middle East rallies, and received verbal confirmation that the three drivers could not start. This was then backed up by a telex from Fisa which stated: "We confirm that drivers of Sports cars (Group B) must not belong to the 1st or 2nd seeded drivers list in the Middle East Championship."

Wael Khoury felt he had no option but to obey the Fisa instructions and duly issued a letter to the three teams saying that their cars would not be allowed to start the event.

The issue was further complicated by the existence of a telex from the same Pierre de Connick to the Qatar club shortly after the controversy initially blew up in January. This stated the complete opposite; not only could

Group B cars compete; they could also be driven by the region's B-seeds. The text of this telex is equally unambiguous and could not have been misconstrued by David Stone the recipient of the telex.

According to Derek Ledger, his regulations, which have been Fisa approved, say that group B cars are still allowed to be driven by the B seeds. Glossotis is in possession of regulations which say they are not.

When the frantic teams contacted Fisa yesterday morning, they were hoping for a reversal or a go-ahead for them to start. There were millions of dollars at stake for the teams concerned, and the only comfort for them was that everyone was in the

same boat.

Mohammed Bin Sulayem told the Arab Times, "I am all right, I feel calm," and joked about spending the rest of his time in Kuwait sight-seeing. Al Hajri was characteristically impassive. "It's OK," he shrugged. "We just have to wait two hours or so to find out what can be done."

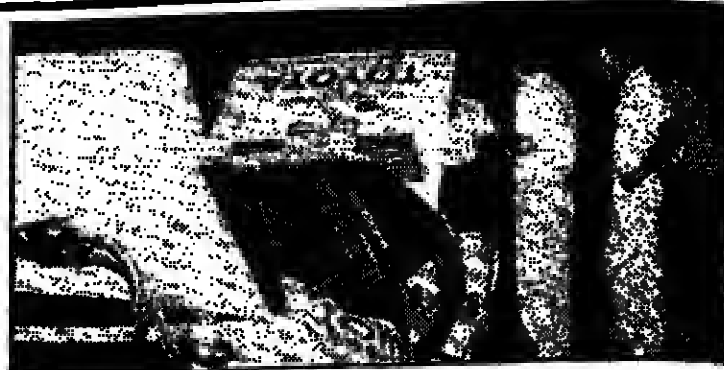
Later Sulayem said, "I knew in my heart that we would start. I never believed that Fisa could do this. I didn't worry." The worst problem faced by the teams was the huge expense of the day's phone calls and telexes, and the lost practice time. Sulayem in particular had little opportunity to practice, having arrived in Kuwait later than his rival, and suffered engine problems with the practice car.

"It's not a problem. We'll practice tonight and all day tomorrow," he said.

Lead

The one highlight on his horizon was his start number — 45. This is not as bad as it sounds. When the start number were issued earlier yesterday there had been no news from Fisa, and Abbas Al Hajri had been scheduled to roll first off the ramp, followed by Mubarak Al Hajri. The B-seeds were issued with low start numbers, but will lead out on the rally, and so the first car off the rostrum will now be Saeed Al Hajri in the Rothmans Audi Quattro.

Bin Sulayem said that he was



Bin Sulayem's car during scrutineering.

very upset with the decision. "They did it last year, and they've done it again. I am Middle East Champion and still they start me second. They have their regulations and should follow them."

Saeed Al Hajri was naturally a little less concerned about the issue. "I go by the organisers' decision," he said. On being asked how he felt about the good news, he replied laconically "It's OK."

The organisers explained that the decision to allow Saeed Al Hajri to leave the start ramp first, had been based on a tossed coin, because both drivers had a claim to lead out. "We do this in Greece when two drivers are equal," said Glossotis. Mohammed Bin Sulayem could have led on the grounds that he held the title, and won the first round, and Saeed Al Hajri had a claim because he won the event last year.

Michel Saleh, of Lebanon, who perhaps had most to lose from the decision, was clearly relieved to be allowed to start as he put his car through scrutineering yesterday. He was disgruntled about press reports which always predicted that he would be in third place. "It is possible

for me to win this rally," he said, adding that he had won here many times before. Saleh is joined for this rally by navigator Othman Lange, and the pair were planning to continue their practice as soon as possible.

Abbas Al Hajri had clearly been concerned earlier at the pressure they were under, now that the familiar fore-runners were not in front of them. Mubarak Al Hajri, the co-driver, was considering the different capabilities of the Peugeot driven by Mousawi and his team's Opel Manta until late in the evening before.

Prevent

Although things have now worked out satisfactorily, it is a pity that there was no follow-up to the original telex by the club in time to prevent the controversy. They preferred to evade the issue and to assume that their own members were at fault.

The teams have lost rest and practice time as well as money, and Kuwait's reputation as a rally host has been damaged again. Fisa's confusion of the regulations is of course, unforgivable in the circumstances.



Toni Samia (left), Al Wazzan (centre) and Ghazi Al Zafiri.

Ballesteros tops list of money winners

VIRGINIA WATER, England, March 15, (AP): Seve Ballesteros of Spain heads a European-dominated list of money winners after the first week of the PGA European Golf Tour.

Ballesteros topped the list, released today, with his £33,330 (\$60,000) first prize in last weekend's Majorca Open in Spain. Ballesteros won the tournament by six strokes.

Second was another Spaniard, Jose-Maria Olazabal, with £22,200 (\$40,000), followed by Scotland's Gordon Brand Jr., at £12,520 (\$23,000).

Barry Lane and Martin Poxon of England, and Ronan Rafferty of Northern Ireland, tied for fourth with £8,490 (\$15,280) each.

The highest-placed American in the Volvo Tour money list was John Jacobs, seventh with £6,000 (\$10,800).

The European Tour continues this week with the Barcelona Open.

More to life than football: Gullit

MILANELLO, Italy, March 15, (Reuters): When Ruud Gullit was named European Footballer of the Year earlier this year, he dedicated his award to imprisoned South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

For Gullit, whose sparkling talent has helped to lift AC Milan into second place in the Italian League, there is more to life than football.

Training

"When you're 30 years old it's all over — you have to think of that," the 25-year-old Dutchman told Reuters at his team's training ground outside Milan.

Gullit, the son of a mixed-race marriage — his father from Surinam, his mother from the Netherlands — believes apartheid to be one of the world's most pressing problems.

"I think everyone in the world has some ideas about the political situation and because I have attention on me I can give publicity to certain subjects," he said.

The big, energetic Dutchman has already become a cult figure among Milan's younger fans. Pale-faced teenagers don wigs to his dreadlock hairstyle as they cheer him on from the stands of the Sao Siro stadium which regularly attracts crowds of more than 70,000.

Gullit, a tireless runner, has been playing magnificently since he was transferred from PSV Eindhoven last summer for \$8.5 million.

"At AC Milan they have given me mostly a free role, because it's the way I play," he said. "I was fortunate to come to a team that plays in depth."

To Gullit the biggest difference between Dutch and Italian football is the size and enthusiasm of the crowds.

"Here the stands are packed there, only in some important games do you get big crowds."

He is constantly besieged by autograph hunters, reporters and photographers, whom he treats with patient courtesy.

Rarely a week goes by without a Gullit headline in the sports pages of the newspapers.

But Gullit is adamant that the success which has put AC Milan four points behind leaders Napoli is the result of team effort.

"I play in a team where team spirit is the most important thing," he said. "Of course we are a young side but we try to achieve that sort of team joy that you can get playing well together."

Harmony

Playing up front alongside Antonio Virdis, Roberto Donadoni and fellow-Dutchman Marco van Basten, currently recovering from injury, obviously gives Gullit great pleasure.

"If the team is in harmony then the goals come," he said. "For me it's not important who scored the goal — a goal is just the candy you get if you do something good."

Like many tall players — he is 1.86 metres — Gullit started as a

defender. Then, in his early career with Haarlem, a trainer tried him up front during a Second Division match and Gullit stayed there, though he often takes on a midfield role too.

With his cheerful, gregarious character he has had little trouble adapting to life in Italy with his Dutch wife and their two small children.

Hefiods Milan a lively, sophisticated city and, unlike Juventus' unhappy Welsh striker Ian Rush, who has failed to settle in Turin, he does not have language problems.

Gullit speaks five languages and, after only six months in the country, can already cope with interviews in Italian.

When he is not playing or training he also has music to keep him happy. He plays bass guitar and listens to music, especially reggae, whenever he can.

"It's something you can relax yourself with," he said. "I try to play but I don't really get enough time to learn and practise properly."

SPORTS BRIEFS

India bid for Commonwealth Games

LONDON, March 15, (Xinhua): India's New Delhi, venue of the 1982 Asian Games, announced its \$20 million bid to stage the 1994 Commonwealth Games here yesterday. If the bid succeeds, New Delhi will become only the second city after Kingston, capital of Jamaica, outside Australia, Canada and Britain to play host to the Games.

Mandlikova to play for Australia

PRAGUE, March 15, (Xinhua): Czechoslovak-born Hana Mandlikova will break off from the Czechoslovak Tennis Federation and play for Australia in international tennis tournaments, according to the official CTK news agency here. Having taken the oath of citizenship on the first day of Australia's bicentennial year, Mandlikova, the world sixth-ranked women tennis player, decided to represent Australia in international events.

Celtic Shot wins Champion Hurdle

CELLENHAM, England, March 15, (Reuters): Celtic Shot gave champion jump jockey Peter Scudamore the first Champion Hurdle success of his career today, the opening day of the three-day National Hunt Festival. The 7-1 chance held off Irish challenger Classical Charm (33-1) by four lengths with the 5-2 favourite Celtic Chief running on to finish a disappointing third, three lengths away.

Draw for Scottish FA Cup

LONDON, March 15, (Reuters): The draw for the semifinals of the Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup was made yesterday as follows: Celtic v Hearts (at Hampden Park) Aberdeen v Dundee United or Dundee (at Den's Park or Tannadice). Matches to be played on Saturday April 9.

Jones fit to face France

CARDIFF, March 15, (Reuters): The vacant loose head prop spot in the Wales team to play France in the Five Nations Rugby Union Championship decider on Saturday will be filled by Pontypool's Staff Jones. Jones came through a fitness test last night and was immediately told of his selection. He was originally chosen for the previous match against Ireland, but pulled out because of a hamstring injury.

Trial of Liverpool fans

LONDON, March 15, (AP): An English attorney is threatening to throw into chaos the April 18 trial of 25 Liverpool soccer fans charged with manslaughter for their part in the Heysel stadium riots three years ago. Sir Harry Livermore says that as a result, the trial in Brussels, Belgium, is "99 per cent certain" to be delayed until September at the earliest.

Norway take Group B lead

SAPPORO, Japan, March 15, (AP): Norway beat Austria 5-2 today for its third consecutive victory and took the sole lead in the eight-nation World Junior Ice Hockey Group B Championships. Romania, France and Switzerland each had 2-1 records after Romania beat the Swiss 4-2 and France edged Yugoslavia 7-6 with four goals in the final period.

Japan PGA tour starts tomorrow

TOKYO, March 15, (AP): The 1988 Japan Professional Golfers Association Tour starts on Thursday, offering record total prize money of \$2.22 billion yen (\$17.4 million) for the 40 tournaments. The prize money total is up 222 million yen (\$1.75 million) from last season's 40-tournament tour.

1992 Games committee unveils mascot

BARCELONA, Spain, March 15, (AP): The organisers of the 1992 Summer Olympic Games today unveiled their unusual mascot — a jaunty, line-drawn dog-like figure that they say constitutes a leap forward from traditional Olympic fare.

America's Cup holders face return to court

SAN DIEGO, March 15, (AP): America's Cup holders are facing a near-certain return to court, as a dispute continues to brew over the legality of using a multi-hull vessel against a single-hull boat in the prestigious yachting competition.

Sail America's defence manager for San Diego Yacht Club, is building two multihull boats for the September race series against New Zealand. One is a catamaran while the design of the other is secret.

New Zealand challenger Michael Fay has said a return to court is inevitable unless the Cup defence agrees to build a single-hull vessel similar to Fay's 90-foot waterline craft.

Fay said that the yacht club will forfeit the coveted trophy if its team sails to the starting line in a multihull.

"Michael Fay can say what he wants to say," Sail America spokesman Tom Mitchell said yesterday. "We're absolutely confident" a multihull is legal.

Mitchell said the only design restrictions in the deed of gift, which governs Cup competition, relate to the length of a boat and make no mention of the number of hulls.

"Once again Fay is finding a way not to race on the water but to try to win this in the courts," Mitchell said.

Fay has said that the deed prohibits mismatches in the sailing competition and that a multihull, generally considered faster than a monohull, would give the San Diego Yacht Club an unfair advantage.

Also pending before New York court justice Carmen Ciparick is a suit by a British syndicate, the Royal Burnham Yacht Club, which is seeking entry into the September 1988 race.

The latest verbal exchange over the boat class dispute followed the yacht's decision Saturday to move the venue of the September race from Long Beach to San Diego.

Pakistan 166 for 9

ST JOHN'S Antigua, March 15, (Reuters): Pakistan, put in to bat, scored 166 for nine from 46 overs in the second one-day cricket international against West Indies today.

African countries threaten to withdraw from world event

Budd to stay in British cross-country team



Budd (right) comes under fire.

LONDON, March 15, (AP): British track authorities today rejected international pressure to withdraw Zola Budd from next week's World Cross-country Championships and said she was still in the team despite the threat of a widespread boycott.

A statement issued by the British Amateur Athletic Board said it had considered a request by the governing body of world athletics to withdraw Budd from the March 26 event in Auckland, New Zealand but had decided against pulling her out.

Involved The International Amateur Athletic Federation questioned Budd's eligibility following allegations that she was involved in at least one meet in her native South Africa last year.

"In the light of the fact that no evidence has been forthcoming from the IAAF concerning Miss Budd's activities in South Africa during 1987 and her assurances regarding allegations, the BAAB consider that the IAAF must, if they require her to be deselected, instruct the BAAB to deselection her," the BAAB statement said.

There was no immediate comment from the London headquarters of the IAAF.

As the BAAB announced its decision, at least one more African country said it would withdraw from the championships if Budd takes part.

The Kenyan government said it would join Zimbabwe in boycotting the event if Budd is allowed to participate.

"We have decided to go by the decision of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa to stay out... unless Budd is barred from participating," the Ministry of Culture and Social Services said in Nairobi.

Another report today said Ethiopia had also decided to stay away, although this could not be immediately confirmed.

Yesterday, the IAAF called for Budd to be scratched from the British team because of doubts over the two-time champion's contacts with her native South Africa.

The organisation said it was worried that even the Seoul Olympics could be hit unless it acted quickly. But it stopped

short of ordering the BAAB, one of its member affiliations, from pulling Budd out.

Budd said she had played by the rules and blasted the IAAF's action.

"It would seem that under political pressure, and particularly the threat of some countries boycotting the Auckland event, it would be politic to suspend me from international competition pending an investigation long enough to keep me out of the New Zealand race," she said. The Supreme Council for Sport in Africa told the IAAF that Budd should be barred for violating bans on sporting contact with her homeland.

Involved One of the cases involves a cross-country meet in Brakpan, South Africa, last June.

Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, said there also were questions about Budd's involvement in an awards ceremony at a South African meet last New Year's Eve. Budd reportedly received a bouquet of flowers from a fan after handing out prizes at the race, PA said.

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